

II



ACKD. BY



THE HEALTH OF SLOUGH



1963

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
'HIGHFIELD',
9, BATH ROAD,
SLOUGH.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Slough.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my 15th Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Slough - the report for the year 1963.

One major change in the form of the report occurs this year by the addition of a section upon the work of the School Health Service - this follows upon the Borough Council's obtaining Excepted District status under the Education Act, 1944.

The population once again rose, but the increase was a smaller one than in any year since 1955 - 1,966; the natural increase was only slightly less but the immigrants to the town were fewer in number than they had been since 1955.

Generally speaking the health of the community was, so far as epidemic diseases were concerned, reasonably satisfactory.

The number of infants dying under the age of one year was disappointingly high but the stillbirth rate was the lowest recorded.

Towards the end of the year the Borough Council opened the Crematorium with consequent additional responsibility falling upon the medical staff - I was appointed Medical Referee and Deputy Medical Referees were appointed from among the County Council's medical staff and from general practitioners in the town.

Housing problems still remain acute - or perhaps I should say, chronic. I refer not so much to the progress of the building of new houses by private enterprise and by the Council but to the progress with improvements to older houses which could, with the expenditure of a reasonable amount of money, be brought up to date and so provide good accommodation for a number of years to come. Housing problems have, as well, been exacerbated by the number of people wishing to come to live in this town of full employment and this has resulted in more houses becoming overcrowded and in multiple occupation.

The department has continued in its unremitting fight against infection. Although our local efforts never cease it is always possible for outbreaks of food poisoning to occur for reasons entirely outside our control - an example of this has been seen in the recent outbreak of typhoid fever at Aberdeen. Nevertheless the increasing use of pre-cooked and packed meals, some of which are produced in Slough, means that watchfulness in this particular field must never be relaxed.

It is disappointing to have to relate that no agreed site has yet been found for a new abattoir to serve the town; some matters really do seem to go on for a lifetime without being settled.

The clean air campaign makes steady but slow progress. Changing methods in industry influence us far more than often we realise: recent changes in the gas industry give one example. Gas coke, which seemed so plentiful only a few years ago is disappearing with new methods of gas production and so clean air campaigns suffer a set back because of under-production of smokeless fuels - fortunately we have not been affected yet in this area and we can still hope that our scheme may not have to be modified or delayed.

Most legislation concerning working conditions has, in the past, been aimed at factory and factory workers. The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act of 1963 is a new charter for millions who work in offices and in the distributive trades; it should, in the course of the next few years, produce reasonable working conditions for those who have often been wrongly presumed, because of their neat clothes and white collars to be working under good, if not ideal, conditions in the past.

Some rearrangement of the Borough Council's own office accommodation has resulted in a move for this Department and most of the staff are now housed under one roof; the change taken place only a few days before this report is written but it is hoped and expected that closer liaison between the various sections will result in more efficiency.

In closing I would like to thank Alderman N.M. Eschler, the members of the Health and Sanitation Committee for their support during the year and to express my appreciation to all members of the staff who have continued to give of their best during the past twelve months.

I remain, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT.

Medical Officer of Health.

AUGUST, 1964.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1963

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	6,202 acres
Population: Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1963	84,210
Number of dwelling-houses, including flats at 1st April, 1964	24,168
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1964 ...	£7,148,015
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1964 ...	£7,173,260
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1964/65 ...	£29,500

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1963

Live Births:						
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	Males 805	Females 744
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	84	61
						Total 145
					Total 889	805
						1,694

Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	-	20.1
Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) (Comparability factor 0.94)	-	18.91
National Birth Rate	-	18.2
Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Rate	-	1.04:1
Illegitimate live births were 8.56% of total live births		

Still Births:						
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	Males 11	Females 10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1
						Total 2
					Total 12	11
						23

Total of live and still births	-	1,717
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	-	13.4
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	-	0.27
National still birth rate per 1,000 total births	-	17.3

Deaths:						
					Males 396	Females 350
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population						746
Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) (Comparability figure 1.42)					-	8.86
National Death Rate per 1,000 population					-	12.6
Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate					-	12.2
						1.03:1

Maternal Deaths:

Number of women dying in, or as a consequence of, pregnancy	-	Ni
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	Ni

Infant Mortality: (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age)

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	12	12	24
Illegitimate	5	2	7
TOTAL	17	14	31

Rate per 1,000 live births	-	18
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	15
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	48
National Rate per 1,000 live births	-	20
Ratio of Local Rate to National Rate		0.88

Neo-Natal Mortality: (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age)

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	7	9	16
Illegitimate	4	2	6
TOTAL	11	11	22

Rate for all infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births - Slough	-	13
- National	-	14

Peri-Natal Mortality: (Still births and deaths of infants under 1 week of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths	11	9	20
Still births	12	11	23
TOTAL	23	20	43

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	21
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Other Deaths:

	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 100 Population
Cancer	81	80	161	1.91
Pulmonary T.B. ...	1	2	3	0.036
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	-	-	-	-

I. VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 1,694 live births during 1963, an increase of two upon the previous year. Of these live births 889 were males and 805 females, a ratio of male:female very similar to that of the previous year.

The crude birth rate was again slightly over twenty per thousand of the population but by the time this had been multiplied by the comparability figure of 0.94, a calculation which allows the birth rate of Slough to be compared with other areas of the country and indeed with the country as a whole, the corrected birth rate became 18.91 a rate considerably higher than the 18.25 for 1962. This seeming inconsistency arises because the Registrar-General has raised the comparability figure from 0.89 in 1961 and 1962 to 0.94 in 1963; the nearer the figure is to unity the more nearly does the potential child-bearing proportion of the population correspond to that for the country as a whole. The reason for this increase has not been stated but may be associated with the census of 1961 the results of which, for Buckinghamshire, have just been published; in inter-census years an estimate of the population and its age constitution has to be made.

For the third year running the corrected birth rate for Slough has been greater than the rate for England and Wales the rate for 1963 being 1.04 : 1 a proportion greater than that previously recorded.

Year	Corrected Birth Rate, Slough	Birth Rate England & Wales	Ratio Slough : England & Wales	
1954	13.37	15.2	0.88	: 1
1955	13.35	15.0	0.89	: 1
1956	13.51	15.7	0.86	: 1
1957	14.3	16.1	0.89	: 1
1958	15.76	16.4	0.96	: 1
1959	15.74	16.5	0.95	: 1
1960	16.74	17.1	0.98	: 1
1961	17.62	17.4	1.01	: 1
1962	18.25	18.0	1.01	: 1
1963	18.91	18.2	1.04	: 1

ILLEGITIMACY

The number of illegitimate births during 1963 was 147 compared with 133 in 1962 and 91 in 1961. Although the increase of 14, over the previous year was not so great as the rise of 42 between 1961 and 1962 the illegitimate rate has crept up to 8.56% or slightly more than one in every twelve births. Of the total of 147 two were still-births (one male and one female) and of the live births 84 were males and 61 females.

1954	...	4.7
1955	...	5.24
1956	...	4.79
1957	...	4.45
1958	...	5.01
1959	...	5.90
1960	...	5.68
1961	...	5.69
1962	...	7.73
1963	...	8.56

STILLBIRTHS

The number of stillbirths dropped quite sharply from 29 in 1962 to 23 in 1963 the rate per thousand total births being 13.4 in 1963 compared with 16.8 in 1962; this compares very favourably with the national rate of 17.3.

STILLBIRTH RATES - SLOUGH

1954	...	25.0
1955	...	25.7
1956	...	25.9
1957	...	19.6
1958	...	25.2
1959	...	26.8
1960	...	12.46
1961	...	10.53
1962	...	16.8
1963	...	13.4

It is more important, however, to take the number of stillbirths in conjunction with the number of live-born infants who die within the first week of life. Improved medical and maternity services have caused many children to be born alive who previously would not have lived even for a short time. The line between life and death at birth in these instances is a very fine one and so, in some years, a higher still birth rate will be found while in other years it may be lower. Children who died soon after birth in 1963 were more numerous than they had been in the previous year while the number of stillbirths in 1963 was lower than it had been in 1962; taken together the totals were almost the same but for further comment see under heading 'Peri-natal Mortality'.

DEATHS

The number of persons normally resident in the town who died increased quite sharply from 657 in 1962 to 746 in 1963 - an increase of 89; of this increase only 15 were males. The crude death rate - that is, deaths per 1,000 of the population - rose from 7.94 in 1962 to 8.86 in 1963.

DEATH RATE - SLOUGH			
Year	Crude Death Rate	Corrected Death Rate	National Rate
1954	7.60	9.35	11.3
1955	8.625	10.60	11.7
1956	8.47	11.1	11.7
1957	8.5	11.05	11.5
1958	7.74	10.53	11.7
1959	9.13	12.42	11.6
1960	8.6	11.69	11.5
1961	7.93	11.10	12.0
1962	7.94	11.06	11.9
1963	8.86	12.58	12.2

As will be seen from the table above the crude death rate fluctuates quite widely from year to year. In order to compare this rate with England and Wales as a whole or with any other area this crude rate must be multiplied by a comparability figure (a similar calculation to that for births); this year the Registrar-General has increased the figure from 1.40 to 1.42. After this calculation has been done the corrected death rate for Slough is seen to be 12.58, a figure slightly in excess of that for the country as a whole; this is somewhat unusual but from the table a similar state of affairs is seen also to occur in 1959 and 1960.

As was mentioned above the increase occurred mainly in women but although increases were due mainly to cancer, vascular lesions of the nervous system, heart diseases and diseases of the respiratory system there was no evidence of any spectacular increase in any one region of the body.

CAUSE OF DEATH	1962	1963
Heart disease	241	249
Cancer	141	161
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	61	86
Pneumonia and bronchitis	69	76
Accidents - all types	26	34
Other circulatory disease	26	25

The above table shows the six main causes of death during the year and although there has been no change in the six main causes the considerable rise in deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system caused this condition to rise from fourth to third place displacing pneumonia and bronchitis. In view of the extreme weather experienced during the first quarter of the year it is perhaps rather surprising that chest conditions caused only quite a small number of extra deaths but perhaps this was because many people were forced to stay at home and so did not become infected by others.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1962		1963	
	M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	3	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	9	14	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	38	9	30	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	1	18
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	7	-	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	31	33	36	42
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	4	1	-	4
Diabetes	3	3	1	5
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	19	42	32	54
Coronary disease, angina	100	38	98	40
Hypertension with heart disease	6	5	4	9
Other heart disease	42	50	39	59
Other circulatory disease	15	11	11	14
Influenza	2	-	5	1
Pneumonia	13	11	18	18
Bronchitis	36	9	28	12
Other diseases of the respiratory system	5	-	8	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	3	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	1	5	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	4	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	5	3	6	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	26	20	24	24
Motor vehicle accidents	8	3	12	3
All other accidents	7	8	11	8
Suicide	5	3	2	4
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	1	-
ALL CAUSES ...	381	276	396	350

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1963

Ages at Death in Years:	Males	Females	Total
0 - 1	17	14	31
1 - 4	3	2	5
5 - 14	1	4	5
15 - 24	3	4	7
25 - 44	22	10	32
45 - 64	115	75	190
65 - 74	110	85	195
75 - plus	125	156	281
	396	350	746

Of the 746 deaths, 476 (63.8%) were over the age of 65 years compared with 61.1% in 1962 and 60.8% in 1961; the deaths of the over 65s were almost exactly shared by the sexes, 235 men and 241 women.

CAUSE OF DEATH	SEX	TOTAL ALL AGES	UNDER 4 WEEKS	4 WEEKS AND UNDER 1 YEAR	AGE IN YEARS								75 AND OVER	
					1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -		
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	M F	1 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 2	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	M F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	M F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
4. Diphtheria	M F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	M F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection	M F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	M F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M F	14 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	5 1	5	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M F	30 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	1	12	1	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M F	1 18	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	4	5	2	-
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	2	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M F	36 42	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	11	10 17	11	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M F	- 4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	M F	1 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M F	32 54	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	12 12	12	32
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	M F	98 40	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	27	9	37 13	19 16	2
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	M F	4 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	5	5
20. Other Heart Disease	M F	39 60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 9	28 44	3
21. Other Circulatory Disease	M F	11 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3 4	8	4
22. Influenza	M F	5 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	4	-
23. Pneumonia	M F	18 18	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	14 11	9
24. Bronchitis	M F	28 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	1	10 5	5	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M F	8 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3 1	1	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	M F	3 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 1	1	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M F	5 4	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1 1	1	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	M F	1 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	M F	6 4	2 2	2 1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M F	24 24	9 8	1 -	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	6 11	1
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	M F	12 3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	1	-
34. All Other Accidents	M F	11 8	-	1 1	2	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	3	2
35. Suicide	M F	2 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36. Homicide and Operations	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M F	396 350	11 11	6 3	3 2	1 4	3 4	8 6	14 4	35 23	80 52	110 85	125 156	
		746	22	9	5	5	7	14	18	58	132	195	281	



CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

For the past few years it has seemed that the story of this distressing disease has been one of unmitigated gloom. It is, therefore, with faint relief that I can record a smaller number of deaths from this condition compared with the previous year. However, there can be no real comfort from this particularly if one looks at the picture over the past 10 years; the average number of deaths has been rising slowly and is now 27.6 per year for men and 4.0 for women.

The year saw yet another major report showing the link between smoking and lung cancer - this time from America - and it seems almost impossible that there can still be people who refuse to believe that smoking - and cigarette smoking in particular - is one of the causes of lung cancer. To persuade them to abandon the habit, is, however, another matter, because smoking is an addiction as well as a habit. The main emphasis of health education has been directed to those who have yet to start smoking, or at least to smoke with any great regularity. Talks, supported by films, filmstrips and posters, have been given to schools, youth clubs and to parents groups on no less than 29 occasions during the year. Supporting posters and pamphlets have also been distributed, and so, although progress towards non-smoking seems to be making very slow progress, more people are made aware of the hazards which they are facing by starting or continuing the habit.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

I am delighted to be able to report, once again, that no deaths occurred due to childbirth or abortion.

INFANT MORTALITY

For many years it has been customary to say that the infant mortality rate is the most useful index of the general standard of living and, in particular, an indication of the efficiency of the general medical services as well as of the maternity and child welfare services of an area. If this were true then the number of deaths of infants during the first year of life during 1963 would throw grave doubts upon efficacy of the services in this area; the number of infant deaths increased from 23 deaths from 1,692 live births in 1962 to 31 deaths from 1,694 live births in 1963 or, expressed in another way, the infant mortality rate rose from 13.6 to 18.3 per 1,000 live births.

A better indication of the value and efficiency of the maternity services is, however, now agreed to be the perinatal mortality (still-births and deaths of infants under 1 week of age) and if this is allowed then the rate compares reasonably with 1962 and previous years. Further details of this are given in the next paragraph of the report.

Of the 31 deaths occurring in infants under 1 year of age 24 were legitimate and 7 illegitimate. Of the former, 12 were boys and 12 were girls, whereas of the illegitimate births 5 were boys and 2 were girls. In spite of the fact that ante-natal and maternal and child welfare services are available equally to all women expecting and having children there is no doubt that those women having children without the background of a stable family union lose a much greater proportion of infants than those whose unions, married or unmarried, are stable: illegitimacy means, more often than not, that stable economic, social and emotional surroundings for the new baby are conspicuously lacking.

The table on the next page shows 32 deaths and this is the number which actually occurred during the year according to local Registrars' returns. This is not the same number as shown in the summary at the beginning of the report and the discrepancy occurs from time to time as the Registrar-General uses machinery which has to be fed with information quite early in the new year, whereas the information upon which part of the report and all other similar reports are based do not become available until May: by this time, of course, local figures have been amended to provide accurate information. All statistics in the report are based upon the information given officially by the Registrar-General.

CAUSES OF DEATH	UNDER 1 DAY	1 - 2 DAYS	3 - 5 DAYS	6 - 7 DAYS	TOTAL UNDER 1 WEEK	1 - 2 WEEKS	3 - 4 WEEKS	TOTAL UNDER 1 MONTH	1 - 3 MONTHS	4 - 6 MONTHS	7 - 9 MONTHS	10-12 MONTHS	TOTAL UNDER 1 YEAR
Pneumonia - 491*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Other diseases of intestines and peritoneum - 570 - 578	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3
Other diseases of musculo-skeletal system - 740 - 749	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Congenital Malforma- tions - 750 - 759	1	1	1	-	3	-	1	4	1	1	1	-	7
Birth injuries, Asphyxia & Infections of New- born - 760 - 769	7	2	-	1	10	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	10
Other diseases peculiar to Early Infancy - 770 - 776	5	1	-	-	6	1	-	7	-	-	-	-	7
Other Accidents - E910 - E936	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
TOTAL	13	5	1	1	20	1	1	22	4	3	3	-	32
WHERE DIED													
Home	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	6
Hospitals in this Area	10	5	1	1	17	1	-	18	1	2	1	-	22
Hospitals away from this Area	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Elsewhere	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	3
TOTAL	13	5	1	1	20	1	1	22	4	3	3	-	32

* The figures in the Causes of Death Column and those given after the Causes of Death in the "accompanying details" refer to the Categories given in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

Pneumonia - 491*

1 month	-	Pneumonia - Home. Coroner's post-mortem	(491)
3 months	-	Broncho-pneumonia - Old Windsor Hospital. Coroner's post-mortem	(491)

Other Diseases of Intestines and Peritoneum - 570 - 578

2 days	-	Intestinal obstruction, exact cause unknown - Old Windsor Hospital	(570.)
9 months	-	Dehydration due to acute infantile gastro-enteritis - Home	(571)
6 months	-	Gastro-enteritis - Old Windsor Hospital	(571)

Other Diseases of Musculo-skeletal System - 740 - 749

7 months	-	Bronchopneumonia due to muscular dystrophy. Died on way to hospital	(744.)
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Congenital Malformations - 750 - 759

2 days	-	Anencephaly - Canadian Red Cross Hospital	(750)
Under 24 hours	-	Respiratory failure due to meningocoele - Edgeware General Hospital	(751)
3 weeks	-	Bronchopneumonia due to patent ductus arteriosus - Private address. Coroner's post-mortem	(754.)
3 days	-	Congestive heart failure due to patent ductus arteriosus. Old Windsor Hospital	(754.)
9 months	-	Bronchopneumonia due to congenital heart disease - Old Windsor Hospital	(754.)
4 months	-	Bronchopneumonia due to congestive cardiac failure due to congenital heart lesion - Canadian Red Cross Hospital	(754.)
2 months	-	Polycystic disease of kidneys - Home	(757)

Birth Injuries, Asphyxia and Infections of Newborn - 760 - 769

Under 24 hours	-	Sub-dural haemorrhage due to breech delivery - Canadian Red Cross Hospital	(760)
6 days	-	Cerebral haemorrhage due to tentorial tear - Canadian Red Cross Hospital	(760)
Under 24 hours	-	Cerebral haemorrhage - Old Windsor Hospital	(760)
Under 24 hours	-	Intrapartum asphyxia - Home, Coroner's post-mortem	(761)
2 days	-	Atelectasis - Old Windsor Hospital	(762)
Under 24 hours	-	Atelectasis - Old Windsor Hospital	(762)
1 day	-	Atelectasis due to prematurity - Old Windsor Hospital	(762.5)
Under 24 hours	-	Atelectasis due to prematurity - Canadian Red Cross Hospital	(762.5)
Under 24 hours	-	Atelectasis due to prematurity - Old Windsor Hospital	(762.5)
Under 24 hours	-	Neonatal asphyxia probably due to want of attention at birth - Place of death and identity unknown. Coroner's inquest - Open Verdict	(762.0)

Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy - 770 - 776

Under 24 hours	-	Extreme prematurity - Old Windsor Hospital	(776)
Under 24 hours	-	Prematurity - 1 lb. 10 ozs. - Upton Hospital	(776)
Under 24 hours	-	Prematurity - Canadian Red Cross Hospital	(776)
Under 24 hours	-	Extreme prematurity - Old Windsor Hospital	(776)
2 days	-	Extreme prematurity - Old Windsor Hospital	(776)
Under 24 hours	-	Prematurity - 26½/52 gestation - Weight 1 lb. 13 ozs. - Upton Hospital	(776)
1 week	-	Prematurity - Weight at birth 2 lbs. 4 ozs. Canadian Red Cross Hospital	(776)

Other Accidents - E910 - E936

3 months	-	Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomited gastric content - Home, Coroner's inquest - Verdict misadventure	(E.92)
4 months	-	Asphyxia by bed clothing while lying in cot - Home, Coroner's inquest - Verdict misadventure	(E.92)

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY

In 1963, 20 infants died within the first week of life and there were 23 stillbirths, a total of 43 in 1,717 births and equivalent to a loss of 25.05 per 1,000 total births.

Reference to the peri-natal mortality has already been made earlier in the report. It includes stillbirths and death of infants during the first week of life, a period in which they are struggling to adapt themselves to the vast changes they have undergone during and after birth.

More and more children who are born alive are kept alive by better treatment including the use of special hospital units and our attention now needs to be focussed more upon the production of live babies and their survival for the first vital few days. We are succeeding in this task although, perhaps, progress is not as fast as we would like. A glance at the table below, however, shows that maternity and child services in 1963, while not managing to improve on previous years, at least managed to hold their own.

1958	...	34.4
1959	...	34.0
1960	...	28.3
1961	...	26.6
1962	...	24.4
1963	...	25.05

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Neo-natal deaths are those occurring within four weeks of birth and the number in 1963 was 22; this gives a neo-natal mortality rate of 13.0. This is, admittedly, much greater than the rate of 7.7 per thousand live births in 1962 but looks more reasonable if taken in conjunction with rates for previous years. For example, the rate was 18.15 in 1961.

The National rate in 1963 was 14.2.

INQUESTS

37 inquests upon residents of the Borough were held in 1963 compared with 30 in 1962. The causes of death as recorded by the Registrars of Births and Deaths following receipt of the coroners' verdicts are set out in the following table:-

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural Causes:	-	1	1
Accidents:			
Falls	3	-	3
Road Accidents	13	1	14
Asphyxia	1	1	2
Coal Gas Poisoning	3	3	6
Ferrous Sulphate Poisoning	1	-	1
Multiple Injuries -			
Causes unspecified ...	1	1	2
suicide:			
Hanging	1	-	1
Barbiturate Poisoning ...	1	1	2
Coal Gas Poisoning	-	2	2
Open Verdict:			
Barbiturate Poisoning plus			
alcohol	1	-	1
Drowning	1	-	1
Asphyxia probably due to want			
of attention at birth ...	-	1	1
TOTAL ...	26	11	37

The total of road deaths - up by 6 on the previous year - disappointing. The last line in the table above concerns the death of an unidentified newly-born infant who was less than an hour old and who had probably died from neglect.

POPULATION

According to the Registrar-General the town's population continued its upward course between 1962 and 1963. On the 30th June 1962, he estimated the population to be 82,700 whereas a year later he thought it was 84,210 - an increase of 1,510. As the number of births was greater than the number of deaths some of this increase was a natural one but Slough still continues

to attract people from outside and if it was not for the rapid rise in the price of property I am sure there would be many others settling here. Immigrants were not so numerous as in some years, only 562, but each newcomer must add to the congestion in the Borough and there is ample evidence in the extremely low unemployment rate that industry would welcome an even greater influx.

The Borough Council continues with its building program on Parlaunt Park and this is to include four blocks of 13-storey flats; the first two blocks of high buildings are, however, already occupied - both of them are the product of the London County Council and are situated at Langley.

Although one is used to saying that Slough continues to grow larger, busier and more congested each year - even the roads seem busier in spite of the M.4 by-pass which was opened by the Minister of Transport in April 1963 - probably not many stop to think and to realise that there has been an expansion of population of more than a quarter during the past ten years. Just after the war the population remained static but once building got under way again expansion was the order of the decade: the table below shows just how the town has grown.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Natural Increase (births less deaths)</i>	<i>Immigration</i>	<i>Population</i>
1954	465	325	67,090
1955	400	450	67,940
1956	430	820	69,190
1957	497	1,873	71,560
1958	705	1,355	73,620
1959	617	1,213	75,450
1960	760	1,200	77,410
1961	958	2,322	80,690
1962	1,035	975	82,700
1963	948	562	84,210

Slough - 1961 Census

While this report was being compiled the General Register Office produced the County Report for Buckinghamshire for the Census of 1961.

At the 1961 census Slough had 16.55 per cent of the population of the County of Buckingham - roughly 1 in 6 - and the intercensal increase (1951-1961) was 1.96 per cent per of this 0.74 per cent was due to natural increase and 1.22 cent to immigration. Two tables seem to be particularly

interesting: population by wards of the Borough giving also the population ten years previously and the table giving details of the population by age and sex.

1961 CENSUS - POPULATION BY WARDS OF BOROUGH

Ward	Persons		Difference between 1951 and 1961
	1951	1961	
Burnham North	4,631	9,611	4,980
Burnham South	7,005	7,228	223
Central North	7,127	6,507	620
Central South	4,150	4,135	15
Chalvey	6,920	6,643	277
Warnham North	8,175	8,673	498
Warnham South	6,291	5,659	632
Langley	6,015	17,589	11,574
Stoke North	6,325	5,689	636
Stoke South	4,755	4,174	581
Wotton	5,077	4,873	204
TOTAL	66,471	80,781	14,310

Apart from Burnham North and Langley there was little change in distribution of population within the town.

1961 CENSUS - POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

Age	Males	Females	Total
0 - 4	3,464	3,218	6,682
5 - 9	3,037	2,897	5,943
10 - 14	3,619	3,479	7,098
15 - 19	2,854	2,846	5,700
20 - 24	2,716	2,561	5,277
25 - 29	2,992	2,713	5,705
30 - 34	2,844	2,723	5,567
35 - 39	3,244	3,118	6,362
40 - 44	2,953	3,000	5,953
45 - 49	3,182	2,925	6,107
50 - 54	2,880	2,851	5,731
55 - 59	2,400	2,265	4,665
60 - 64	1,621	1,852	3,473
65 - 69	1,104	1,428	2,532
70 - 74	717	1,116	1,833

1961 CENSUS - POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX (cont' d)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
75 - 79	438	771	1,209
80 - 84	210	452	662
85 - 89	70	147	217
90 - 94	22	45	67
95 and over	1	6	7
TOTALS	40,368	40,413	80,781

WEATHER

English weather is so well known for its vicissitudes that comments in an Annual Report are usually either very short or even non-existent. The early months of 1963 were so exceptional, however, that comment, in my opinion, is necessary to record a few details of the conditions which had to be endured.

For central England December to February were the three coldest months since 1740 and many places had the coldest January on record. Severe night frosts, with unbroken frost many days continued from Christmas until the end of February and although Slough was comparatively fortunate in the amount of snow which fell, the Borough Engineer was faced with almost unprecedented problems in keeping roads clear for traffic. I must be many years since ice was seen on the Thames but the river was completely frozen over at Windsor - I even walked across myself.

After such a winter there were many expectations of a warm and dry summer but hopes were not fulfilled and holiday makers were, on the whole, very disappointed to find cool, changeable weather.

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICE

CLEANSING, DISPOSAL OF REFUSE AND KITCHEN WASTE, STREET CLEANING, ETC.

I am indebted to Mr. J.A. King, the Borough Engineer, for the following information on the cleansing and refuse collection services.

Street Cleansing

Some improvement in the street sweeping service has been the introduction of mechanical aids for manual sweepers. Shortage of staff, however, meant that the Council was unable to operate this service as frequently as desired. Four mechanical street sweepers have been employed throughout the year on the 96 miles of roads within the Borough.

Street Litter Bins

An increasing number of litter bins are being provided throughout the Borough at strategic points and an improved type of litter receptacle is being adopted in shopping streets.

Street Gullies

Street stormwater gullies throughout the Borough are cleaned at regular intervals each gully being attended to several times a year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal, etc.

Some 3,500 new dustbins are issued annually under the Council's Municipal Dustbin Scheme, which was introduced to standardise the type and size of bin in use. The container system of refuse collection was also adopted during the year for use in multi-storey flats, schools and business premises, where larger quantities of refuse are accumulated. A weekly service of refuse collection was provided for the traders in the town and approximately fifty separate collections were made throughout the year from householders. The volume of refuse collected increases annually creating problems of disposal which is at present carried out by incineration and controlled tipping; the Council are actively considering modern methods such as pulverisation.

For many years a service has been provided for the disposal of discarded household articles in order to avoid as far as possible the indiscriminate dumping of this type of material on highways and vacant sites. A postcard to the Borough Engineer at the Town Hall is all that is required to arrange for this service.

Cesspools

Approximately 90 domestic cesspools within the Borough are emptied at regular intervals at properties where a public sewer is not available. Sewers are being provided as quickly as possible in these areas in order to eliminate the need for cesspools.

Salvage

The Council employs two contractors on a regular weekly collection of kitchen waste from schools, canteens and certain householders and waste food pains are provided free of charge to residents requiring this service. A regular waste paper collection service is operated throughout the Borough from shops and office premises. Many types of material are salvaged from the refuse and these, including, metal, rags, bones, bottles, tyres, etc. were sold for about £5,500 in 1963.

Public Conveniences and Baths

The Council maintain a large number of unattended public conveniences in recreation grounds and public places within the Borough and these are cleansed and serviced daily. Conveniences in the town centre at William Street and Wellington Street are staffed and offer wash and brush-up services to the traveller between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. each day. Attached to the Wellington Street Conveniences are public baths for men and women and these are in constant use, being patronized not only by those local residents whose properties have no bathrooms but also by visitors from afar.

WATER

Slough Corporation Water Supply

Another 347 new domestic water supply connections were made during the year. 84 samples were taken for bacteriological analysis and all were found to be satisfactory.

The Corporation now supplies a population of about 86,000 and these use about 18.9 gallons per head per day for trade purposes and 34 gallons per head per day for domestic purposes a grand total of four and a half million gallons of wholesome treated, piped and pumped water each day.

Chemical analysis from water sampled at the Datchet Pumping Station showed very little variation from previous years; the fluoride content was estimated to be 0.7 parts per million.

arnham, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

A further 48 houses were supplied with water by this company during 1963. The water is treated by super chlorination followed by dechlorination and the 47 samples submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for chemical and bacteriological examination showed that the water continued to be of the highest standards of organic quality and bacterial purity.

Slough Estates Limited Water Supply

This water, which comes from the lower greensand is much better than that obtained from the Slough Corporation's source supply and contains a certain amount of iron - between 0.2 and 0.3 parts per million. This, however, does not affect the wholesomeness of the water which is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial quality, a fact confirmed by continuing satisfactory samples taken throughout the years.

Swimming Bath Water

Of the eight pools in the town two are open to the general public - the Lido and the Community Centre Baths - while the remainder are confined to the pupils of various schools. 122 samples were taken during the year and only four of these showed slight degree of contamination.

Three pools at private schools were responsible for the four unsatisfactory samples of swimming bath water. Necessary action produced satisfactory conditions once again as shown by good follow-up analyses.

Animals Act, 1951

Riding Establishments Act, 1939

Reports received from the Council's Veterinary Surgeon following his regular visits to all the Pet Shops and Riding Establishments in the Borough were all satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

In July I was made aware of the conditions under which an elderly lady (87 years) was living alone and not receiving adequate care and attention. As she was not willing to enter hospital for treatment I considered it necessary to ask the Council for permission to seek an order from the Magistrates Court requiring her to be admitted to hospital compulsorily. When I paid yet another visit about an hour before the Court hearing was due, however, she changed her mind and was admitted to hospital of her own free will.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following table shows the number of medical examinations carried out during the year, together with the numbers of the previous four years for comparison.

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Officers of the Slough Borough Council	34	44	57	71	53
Officers of the Bucks County Council	91	94	96	121	109
For admission to Teacher's Training Colleges and teaching for the first time	46	51	48	64	56
Servants entering Superannuation Scheme	16	28	22	19	15
TOTALS	187	217	223	275	233

I mentioned in my report last year that much time would be saved if Local Authorities would accept without examination into their superannuation schemes, officers already contributing to similar schemes.

The Bucks County Council adopted the following system from 11th November for all new entrants to their service, other than ambulance and other drivers and candidates for entry to teacher's training colleges. A detailed medical history questionnaire is completed by the applicant and this is scrutinised by the Area Medical Officer; experience has already shown a considerable saving of medical time. After a sufficient period has elapsed to assess whether there should be any amendment to the scheme I shall report to the Slough Borough Council who will then decide whether or not to follow suit.

LABORATORY

1963 was a busy year for the laboratory, 1,489 examinations being carried out compared with 1,022 the previous year.

The main increases were due to a larger number of examinations of faeces for organisms of the coli/typhoid/dysentery group, an increase in the number of samples of milk examined and a greater emphasis upon the cleanliness of swimming bath water.

	Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria		
Bacilli	-	6
Swabs for Haemolytic		
Streptococci	1	31
Urine for routine		
examination		189
Faeces for coli/typhoid/		
dysentery group	6	285
Miscellaneous examinations		20
Blood Counts		19
Haemoglobin estimations		14
Milk Samples:	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
(a) Phosphatase test	163	-
(b) Methylene blue test	203	-
(c) Turbidity test	5	-
(d) Chemical tests for		
fats, solids and water	222	-
Water Samples:		
(a) Drinking water	53	-
(b) Swimming bath water	122	4
Ice Cream:		
(a) Chemical tests	68	
(b) Bacteriological tests	75	
Grade I	- 70	
Grade II	- 1	
Grade III	- 1	
Grade IV	- 3	

	NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN						PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES					
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Grade I	56	67	65	52	52	75	87.5	98.5	98.5	98.2	100.0	93.3
Grade II	1	1	1	1	-	1	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	-	1.3
Grade III	4	-	-	-	-	1	6.2	-	-	-	-	1.3
Grade IV	3	-	-	-	-	3	4.7	-	-	-	-	4.0

Ice Cream

The four unsatisfactory samples of ice cream do not strictly belong to Slough. Unsatisfactory samples were found at a cafe in Eton Rural District and as the ice cream had been manufactured in Slough suspicion naturally fell upon the maker; samples taken from the place of manufacture were, however, consistently good.

Further samples from both places were taken in conjunction with the Eton Rural District Health Department and it was eventually discovered that quantities of ice cream purchased from Slough were used over a period instead of at one time, infection being caused by constant and continuous dipping.

MORTUARY

The number of post-mortem examinations carried out in the Borough Mortuary showed little change from the previous three years. From the table below it will be seen that there has been a considerable increase since 1958 and for the past few years the facilities available have been insufficient.

Following discussions with the pathologist who carries out most of the examinations the Borough Council has decided to make the necessary alterations to the building and to the equipment during 1964.

1958	...	103
1959	...	115
1960	...	125
1961	...	135
1962	...	138
1963	...	133

CREMATORIUM

The Slough Crematorium was opened in November. No cremations can be carried out unless authority is given by the Medical Referee either after two independent doctors have given their certificates or a Coroner has given his verdict. I was appointed as Medical Referee, an appointment approved by the Home Office. In order to maintain a continuous service three deputy Medical Referees were also appointed - my Deputy, one of the Assistant County Medical Officers and one of the General Practitioners of the town.

A new job always produces new problems and I should like to thank the Cemetery and Crematorium staff for their very great help.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The following table gives details of the home help service provided locally during the year. As this service is the responsibility of the South Bucks Area Health Sub-Committee under delegated powers from the Bucks County Council and the Health Department is responsible for the whole of the South Bucks Area no details are available for the Borough alone.

the table shows the way in which the service has developed and the manner in which the public requires help at home in increasing measure.

Number of Home Helps as at 31st December:-	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
(a) Full-time	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Part-time	53	48	56	69	63

The 63 part-time helps were equivalent to 36 full-time helps.

Number of Good Neighbours as at 31st December:-	5	9	10
--	---	---	----

Number of Cases who received help during	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
(a) Acute sick	112	73	84	77	68
(b) Chronic sick	109	106	105	122	58
(c) Aged and infirm	266	254	310	331	443
(d) Tuberculosis	3	2	2	2	3
(e) Maternity	63	83	66	57	74
	553	523	567	589	646

There were, in addition

(f) Good Neighbours	19
(g) Problem families	3
(h) Mentally disordered	11

Making a total of 679 separate cases helped during the year.

The problem family cases are probably the most time consuming of all as help must be provided on a sufficient scale not only to improve the condition of the household but must be continued long enough to enable the family to be taught and to have learned, with the help of other welfare workers as well, how to stand on their own feet. As may be imagined there are only a very few helps who can undertake this very difficult and, often very unpleasant, duty.

Good Neighbours live next door to, or near to, those who need help, and give assistance not so much on a regular daily basis but rather on a personal basis for needs such as lighting a fire early in the morning, getting a last drink at night or a cup of tea in the morning and all the other things which Good Neighbours can do. This scheme is not meant to supplant the help of many people who help those living close by or indeed to relieve relations of responsibilities but it is a means whereby

official arrangements can be made to provide such a service where suitable neighbours do not exist or, perhaps, where the burden upon neighbours is so great or of such long-standing that they themselves are suffering hardship by their own good deeds. Payment is made, not on an hourly basis but on an agreed weekly sum to cover the 'service' given.

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Apart from measles 1963 was a year reasonably free from major infectious disease. The tables on the following pages show how infectious diseases have affected the town over the last decade and how they were distributed in time and in areas of the town.

Monthly figures are particularly helpful as they give an indication as to whether the cases which occurred did so in the form of an outbreak or an epidemic and the table which indicates the wards where the cases occurred again helps to show whether the outbreak was localised or more widespread. When one comes to larger outbreaks, such as that of measles when many hundreds of cases occur, the ward distribution is of lesser significance as the total population in the various wards differs quite considerably; following publication of the 1961 census figures it would be possible to give some comparison by expressing incidence in cases per thousand of the ward population but this is probably not worth doing - it should be borne in mind, however, that Langley Ward has nearly twice as many inhabitants as the next most populated ward.

Although I always include a section of the report upon tuberculosis this is the first time I have shown this disease in the main infectious disease table; it shows up rather badly. There has been such a reduction in the disease over the past few years that it is tending to be forgotten and for it to be assumed that tuberculosis is conquered; that it has decreased is true, that it is probably on the way out is also true but it needs to be given a good push. We must make ourselves tuberculosis conscious once again and remember that although each individual can be helped and usually cured by new drugs it is still a chronic, debilitating and infectious disease which is spread from person to person; substitution of good public health preventive measures by treatment is not sufficient to eradicate the disease which, only a few years ago struck terror into the hearts of millions. How far would we be satisfied to see in the tables that there had been 44 cases of polio, dysentery, or typhoid fever ?

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEARS 1954 - 1963

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED AND POPULATION IN THOUSANDS										
	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	
	84	82	80	77	75	73	71	69	67	67	
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic ...	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	5	5	1	
- Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	1	
Dysentery ...	8	9	2	8	1	14	6	2	19	3	
Encephalitis - Infective ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
- Post-Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	1	1	9	-	-	15	
Erysipelas ...	6	5	6	9	22	12	1	18	14	-	
Food Poisoning ...	3	3	18	3	2	9	1	-	-	-	
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles ...	1,066	193	1,324	244	797	442	1,001	52	1,185	29	
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	1	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia ...	8	7	20	17	71	31	29	19	41	53	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	24	14	12	29	41	38	25	23	21	25	
Scarlet Fever ...	18	7	18	32	68	39	36	27	11	70	
Whooping Cough ...	28	28	19	27	46	64	69	64	56	78	
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary ...	35	38	53	51	40	48	36	57	93	69	
- Non-Pulmonary	9	9	5	5	7	9	6	12	11	9	

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	-	8
Erysipelas	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	6
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Measles	46	115	297	272	134	115	46	9	8	4	1	19	1,066
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	8
Polio-myelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	4	5	-	-	6	3	-	-	4	24
Scarlet Fever	-	2	5	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	-	18
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	1	1	4	4	2	-	3	2	6	6	1	5	35
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	9
Whooping Cough	4	-	3	3	-	3	2	-	2	5	3	3	28

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN WARDS OF BOROUGH

	BURNHAM NORTH	BURNHAM SOUTH	CENTRAL NORTH	CENTRAL SOUTH	CHALVEY	FARNHAM NORTH	FARNHAM SOUTH	LANGLEY	STOKE NORTH	STOKE SOUTH	UPTON	TOTAL
Dysentery ...	1	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	8
Erysipelas ...	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	6
Food Poisoning ...	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Measles ...	54	179	97	47	108	152	61	187	70	61	50	1,066
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	1	8
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	21	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	3	18
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	3	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis:												
Pulmonary ...	2	6	3	3	3	3	2	7	2	3	1	35
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	9
Whooping Cough ...	1	2	1	2	2	2	7	3	4	3	1	28

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

MEASLES

In 1961 there was the greatest number of measles cases ever reported in the town and so 1962 was relatively free from the disease; there was, however, a small outbreak in the Langley ward during the late summer and early autumn. In a stable community measles usually shows in epidemic form every other year but this pattern becomes somewhat confused where considerable changes of population are taking place and this has been true in this town since commencement of the L.C.C. states.

1963 started fairly quietly but by February and March many cases of measles were being reported from all parts of the town, by the end of July all but 41 of the 1,066 cases had occurred.

The disease itself was mild, following the usual pattern seen nowadays but it must be remembered that complications caused by super added bacterial infection is the main reason why this disease has such a bad reputation. Modern drug treatment can, and has prevented much of the chronic illness following measles which used to occur but these complications are still very likely to happen and parents should always seek advice for their children from the family doctor so that he can carry out the necessary treatment and so help to avoid the onset of chronic ear or eye disease, etc.

FOOD POISONING

Three cases of food poisoning were notified during the year; all were due to *Salmonella typhi-murium* but they were isolated cases occurring in different parts of the Borough and in different months of the year, one in March, one in May and one in October.

DYSENTERY

Eight cases were notified. Of these three were unconfirmed and four occurred in one household - subsequent bacteriological tests showed that treatment by the family doctor cleared all the patients from infection.

E. coli 026

One child from Brookside Residential Nursery was admitted to hospital with an indefinite illness; full investigations were carried out and it was discovered that a dysentery-causing germ called *E. coli* 026 was to blame.

Subsequent routine faecal samples were taken from the staff and children at the Nursery and analysis showed that si others were carrying the germ without themselves showing any symptoms.

Treatment of the condition by the general practitioner who normally attends the children cleared the infection with further trouble.

SCARLET FEVER

The eighteen cases of Scarlet Fever brought to my attention during the year were about the average and I am not aware of any serious complications arising from this conditio There was no evidence of an outbreak, there being at least one case notified in all months except January and December. The Burnham and Stoke Wards had no cases.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Twenty-four cases of puerperal pyrexia occurred during the year and all but three came from the Upton ward - the maternity unit at Upton Hospital is in this ward. The cases were fairly well scattered throughout the year but the facilities at Upton Hospital - staff and accommodation - are always being pressed so hard that the slightest falling of standards in this unit might well lead to a serious outbreak of disease among mothers and babies. That this had not happened shows great credit to all the staff but one knows that one is sitting on the edge of a volcano and this is a state of affairs which must be the subject of continuous public pressure to relieve; not only should our mothers and babies not be liable to such risk but the staff of doctors and nurses should not always have to work under such continuous pressure.

POLIOMYELITIS

This town has been very fortunate - only two cases notified since 1957 and one of these was not confirmed.

1963 was again a clear year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Details of immunisations carried out by the local health authority's doctors and by family doctors are given below. The numbers inoculated against the various diseases in 1962 were very disappointing but the picture had obviously been clouded by the great demand for vaccination against Smallpox which occurred during the early part of the year when a number of cases of that disease occurred in various parts of England and Wales. In 1963 no such events upset the immunisation program and the returns showed results very similar to those of ear

ears: this, in a way, is encouraging but there are still insufficient children being given protection against the major, serious infectious diseases and it is to be hoped that parents will not only agree to having their children inoculated when asked to do so but will take the initiative and make sure that their young families are given the protection to which they are entitled.

It is not long since the production of a table of inoculations against one, two or even three diseases was easy to present but as the number of conditions against which protection can be given has increased and, for various reasons, varying combinations of antigens have been produced the tables have become more and more complicated. I have, however, tried to make the following figures as clear as possible.

Primary Diphtheria	11
Primary Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	2
Primary Diphtheria/Tetanus	38
Primary Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	878
Primary Quadrilin (Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/ Tetanus/Poliomyelitis)	29
Primary Whooping Cough	2
Primary Tetanus	106
Boosters - Tetanus	9
- Triple	679

DIPHTHERIA

The number of children receiving adequate doses of vaccine to protect them against diphtheria rose to a total of 8 compared with 493 in 1962 and 951 in 1961; even the 1961 figures were far too low.

The number of boosters, 679 is somewhat more encouraging than it was in 1961 when it was only 492 but it is disappointing when it is compared with 780 in 1962.

WHOOPING COUGH

911 children received protection against whooping cough in 1963. Once again we should ignore the very low figures of 1962 and go back to more 'normal' years; 1963 does not seem to compare too badly with 1961 when there were 836 children protected but it does not compare very well with 938 in 1960 and 1,008 in 1959. The birth rate has been rising and the number of immunisations should also be increasing - not diminishing or remaining stationary.

TETANUS

The number of children receiving protection against tetanus seems to show a great improvement and this is undoubtedly

true. It is not due, however, to active agitation by parents for their children to be protected against this disease but rather to a triple vaccine which includes Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus in one solution - three injections instead of the eight previously required give protection against the three diseases. The total number protected was 1,051.

SMALLPOX

It would be very surprising if the number of primary vaccinations against smallpox given during 1963 was anything like the 2,261 done in 1962; 821 re-vaccinations were also given in that year. The number of vaccinations did, in fact, drop to a new low level - 250 primary vaccinations and 19 re-vaccinations. This reduction is not, paradoxically as bad as it seems. New statistical methods have shown that the safe time to give children primary vaccination is not, as was hitherto thought, to be in the first three months of life, but during the second year: our immunisation programmes have, therefore, been amended to allow for this new knowledge, and there must obviously be a gap of about a year before the new procedures begin to show in the annual returns.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

Although the number of cases of poliomyelitis in England and Wales had dropped dramatically during the past two or three years protection against this disease remains popular. This is probably due to two reasons - firstly that the fear of 'polio' is still with many people and secondly that immunisation means not a prick with a needle but merely the giving of three drops of a fairly pleasant liquid by mouth - there is usually the added incentive of a teaspoonful of syrup or a sugar lump.

The following table gives the information on protection in 1963; it is complicated by the fact that there has been a change from Salk (injection) to Sabin (oral) vaccine during the past two years.

Two injections of Salk	214
Third injections of Salk	475
Fourth injections of Salk	58
Three doses of Oral	3,503
Dose of Oral after three Salk	1,388
Dose of Oral after two Salk	372
Fourth dose of Oral	26

TUBERCULOSIS

) New Cases

- (i) *Pulmonary T.B.* The number of new cases continued to fall, only 35 being discovered and notified during 1963: this is the lowest recorded and represents a rate of only 0.42 per thousand of the population compared with the previous low record of 0.45 per thousand. 17 were males and 18 were females.

An Indian boy at one school was found to be suffering from this disease. All those who had, to our knowledge, been in close contact with him were offered a Chest X-Ray at the Chest Clinic at Upton Hospital. This meant making contact with the parents of 40 children who were still at school and with about 20 youngsters who had left.

- (ii) *Non-Pulmonary T.B.* The problem of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, although much smaller remains more intractable. The nine cases recorded in 1963 is the same as in 1962 and higher than in some previous years - there has been virtually no change during the past ten years. As with pulmonary tuberculosis the sexes shared the infection almost equally - five males and four females.

The following table gives details of the age and sex incidence of all new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year:

Age in Years	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 "	-	-	-	-
1 "	2	3	2	2
15 "	5	3	1	-
25 "	2	8	2	1
35 "	3	3	-	1
45 "	2	-	-	-
65 and over	3	1	-	-
TOTALS	17	18	5	4

) Notification Register

As the Register is made up of new cases and 'inward transfers' minus 'outward transfers' cures and deaths, the

number on the register is liable to fluctuate a little from year to year. There were a few more on the list at the end of 1963 compared with the 31st December, 1962, but it was only a few years ago that the register contained over a thousand names.

<i>Males</i>	<i>PULMONARY</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>NON-PULMONARY</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Females</i>				<i>Females</i>		
496	387		883	57	54		111

(c) B.C.G. Vaccinations

Of a total of 1,867 children eligible for B.C.G. vaccination 1,310 accepted the test to determine sensitivity to tuberculosis: this is an acceptance rate of about 71% compared with 77.5% in 1962 and 71% in 1961.

Of the 1,310 tested 121 were absent the following week when reading of the test and vaccination took place, 60 children were seen to have a positive test and thus to have had previous experience of, and some immunity to, tuberculosis while the remaining 1,129 were vaccinated. The proportion of children found positive from those tests which were read was just over 5.3%.

The following table shows the details for the past six years:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Tested</i>	<i>No. Positive</i>	<i>No. Negat</i>
1958	1,009	116 (11.49%)	893 (88.51%)
1959	937	90 (9.6%)	847 (90.4%)
1960	1,422	74 (5.2%)	1,348 (94.8%)
1961	1,226	132 (10.8%)	1,094 (89.2%)
1962	1,369	113 (8.25%)	1,256 (91.75%)
1963	1,310	60 (5.3%)	1,129 (94.7%)

(d) Deaths from Tuberculosis

There were three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and none from the Non-Pulmonary form of the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS

YEAR	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
POPULATION	67,090	67,940	69,190	71,560	73,620	75,450	77,410	80,690	82,700	84,210
P - PULMONARY	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
N.P. NON-PULMONARY	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.	N.P.
CASES. NOTIFIED	69	93	57	36	48	40	51	53	38	35
NOTIFICATIONS PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	1.03	1.36	0.82	0.50	0.65	0.53	0.63	0.60	0.45	0.42
	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.08	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.11

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary Death Rate per 1000 Population
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1954	67,090	5	2	-	2	0.13
1955	67,940	5	3	-	1	0.12
1956	69,190	7	1	1	-	0.12
1957	71,560	4	1	-	-	0.07
1958	73,620	4	-	1	1	0.05
1959	75,450	7	-	1	1	0.09
1960	77,410	2	1	-	1	0.04
1961	80,690	5	-	-	1	0.06
1962	82,700	2	2	-	-	0.04
1963	84,210	1	2	-	-	0.036

HOME SAFETY

The Home Safety Council, which had been formed by the Borough Council in 1962 as a successor to the voluntary Slough Home Safety Association continued its work in a quiet fashion during 1963.

The Council commissioned a 16 mm. colour film on the subject of 'Poisons in the Home' - the film still awaits completion. The Borough Council authorised the appointment of Home Safety Officer - this post was not filled during 1963.

Home Safety was again stressed in the ante-natal groups, Mothers' clubs and other women's groups attended by Health Department staff. Three separate poster campaigns on different aspects of this subject were carried out in premises such as Welfare Centres, Nurseries and Nursery Schools. The Home Safety film was very popular in the 14 schools in the Borough where it was displayed. Old Peoples' Clubs again devoted many sessions to this vital subject.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The following table shows the location of the various child welfare centres in and around Slough.

	<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>Fridays</i>
LY	Health Centre Burlington Road.	Langley - Parlaunt Park. (all day)	Langley - 173, Trelawney Avenue. (all day)	Health Centre, Burlington Road.	Health Centre, Burlington Road.
	St. Michael's Community Centre, Farnham Road.	Britwell	Burnham.	Lent Rise.	Wexham Court.
				Farnham Royal.	Cippenham. Britwell
E LY	Farnham Common.	Stoke Poges. Ccolnbrook.	Datchet.		

Two purpose-built centres were opened in 1963. The one at the Britwell Estate - and which is just outside the Borough - opened on 26th February and the first session was held at

the one at Parlaunt Park, Langley, on the 16th April. These two centres, which provide plenty of space as well as modern facilities, are very welcome and are used for many other purposes besides child welfare centres, including Dental clinics, ante-natal classes, speech therapy clinics, mothers' clubs, etc., as well as providing office accommodation for health visitors.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In Health Education as in Home Safety the Health Department Staffs of the Borough and County Councils work along-side each other to further and to foster an interest in this vital subject among wider and wider audiences.

Apart from Home Safety, Smoking and Health and Oral Resuscitation were the main topics although a wide variety of subjects were discussed by many different groups.

Ante-natal classes continued to attract many young women expecting their first baby and the evening film shows for expectant fathers and mothers showed record attendances of 38 men and 394 women. The Mayor, Alderman F.S.G. Room, who was for many years Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee and the Mayoress, Mrs. Room continued to show their interest in health by being present on one occasion when the film show was held in the Social Den at Upton Hospital; their attendance with the implication of civic recognition of this work, was much appreciated, not only by the audience, but also by the staffs of the health department and hospital who were responsible for this and other similar activities.

Demonstrations and talks on oral resuscitation were given on 31 occasions to audiences including Police and Civil Defence staff, teachers, home helps and women's groups. The manikin used for demonstrating mouth-to-mouth techniques has now been shown to and used by, several thousand people.

Talks on Smoking and Health, supported by films, filmstrips and posters, were given in schools and to youth clubs and parents' groups on 29 occasions. Supporting pamphlets and posters have also been distributed, but progress in reducing the number of smokers makes very slow progress even although most audiences seem to be much more aware of the dangers to health from smoking than they used to be.

Twice a year audiences of health department staff spend an evening reviewing new films on various aspects of health education; by this means is obtained a critical appraisal of material which can, if suitable, be brought into use for future Health Education programmes. In addition the fluoridation of water for the prevention of dental caries was discussed on the first occasion and on the second occasion a talk and discussion took place on the problems faced by recent immigrants to Slough.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

The following clinics are held locally:-

Upton Hospital	Monday and Tuesday	6 - 7.30 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic	Wednesday	11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Arlington Road	Friday evening by appointment only	

DAY NURSERY

Children from 0 - 3 years are cared for daily at the Manor Park Day Nursery.

The Nursery is situated at:-

Penn Road, Manor Park, Slough

Applications for admission should be made to the Area Medical Officer.

RESIDENTIAL NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

Residential accommodation for children needing care by the local authority is supplied by the Children's Department of the Bucks County Council at Brookside Residential Nursery, Little Hill, Manor Lodge, Mildenhall Road, 'Elmside', 1, Upton Road and Bilby House, 55, Langley Road.

Brookside cares for children under 5 years of age, and Manor Lodge for those who have reached school age. 'Elmside' looks after boys aged between 15 and 18 years. Bilby House is a newly-opened cottage type home taking eight children.

Accommodation is restricted and although it is always hoped a place will be available for urgent cases, no guarantee that a child can be admitted to a particular nursery or hostel can be given.

Applications should be made to the Children's Officer, Buckingham Road, Aylesbury.

HOSPITAL SERVICE

The Borough of Slough is served by the following hospitals and maternity homes.

General Hospitals

Upton Hospital, Albert Street
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor

Work continued during the year on an entirely new general hospital at Wexham Park.

Infectious Diseases

Maidenhead Isolation Hospital
St. John's Hospital, Uxbridge

Venereal Diseases

The nearest treatment centres are:-

King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor
Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading
Hillingdon Hospital, Hillingdon

Tuberculosis

- (1) *Chest Clinic*. The Chest Clinic is at Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough. All arrangements are made by the Chest Physician, who is available at the Hospital (Tel. No. SLOUGH 23261)
- (2) *Hospital Treatment for Chest Diseases*. All admissions are arranged by the Chest Physician, Chest Clinic, Upton Hospital, Slough.

Maternity Accommodation

Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow
Colinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor
Princess Christian Maternity Home, Windsor

If the patient's own doctor thinks that admission should be made on medical grounds, the patient is referred to the nearest ante-natal clinic, but if admission is sought on domiciliary or social grounds, application is made through the Area Medical Officer, who makes his recommendation to the Hospital Management Committee following a report on home circumstances made by the Health Visitor.

Part III Accommodation

Aged Persons

Sick

Upton Hospital

Non-Sick

Upton Towers

Upton Hospital

Wexham Court Hostel

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
(Leslie A. Stroud, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.)

for the year 1963

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Section A - General Administration
Section B - Housing
Section C - Safeguarding of Food Supplies
Section D - Clean Air
Section E - Factories, Workplaces and Shops
Section F - Pest Infestation Control
Section G - Miscellaneous

SECTION A

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

TABLE NO. 1

Summary:

Total Inspections	20,747
Complaints received and investigated ...	1,107
Preliminary Notices served	182
Secondary Notices served	30
Statutory Notices served	11
Letters received	7,714
Letters despatched	5,583
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders, etc.	1,128

TABLE NO. 2

Analysis of Inspection Work performed by the Technical Staff:

Housing	3,518
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods, Food and Drugs, etc.	1,479
Premises at which Food is prepared, stored or sold	1,704
Dairies	110
Factories, Workplaces and Offices	386
Shops	907
Clean Air	4,059
General Sanitation	3,577
Pest Infestation Control	1,234
Miscellaneous Matters	790

TABLE NO. 3

Premises at which Improvements were effected:

Dwelling Houses	213
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food	26
Factories and Workplaces	21
Shops	9
Drainage (reconstruction, repair etc.) ...	66
Miscellaneous	11

SECTION B

HOUSING

A clearance programme of 207 houses over a period of 5 years, modest in itself, in danger of being held up due to slowness in acquisition and rehousing.....

An increasing number of multi-occupied houses, largely due to the housing situation, but in themselves aggravating it further.....

Another disappointing year with regard to improvement grants, only 43 being approved.....

A continually growing discrepancy between the financial outlay required to repair older properties and the financial return from controlled rents.....

These and other factors add up to a housing situation which, despite all the achievement in the years since the war, can give satisfaction to no one.

It is clear that an overall shortage of housing will persist in Slough for many years and that unless houses can be produced at an increased rate the situation must deteriorate further. There can be no doubt that the continued influx of immigrant families into this district will be a major factor in the housing situation.

Already the multi-occupation of many houses which are in no way suitable for the purpose has produced a standard of housing far lower than that aimed at over the post-war years.

Clearance

Further progress has been made with the clearance programme of 207 houses scheduled for the five years commencing in autumn, 1961. During 1963, twelve Clearance Areas were declared by resolution of the Slough Borough Council, comprising 117 houses, all to be dealt with by way of Compulsory Purchase.

Since the programme was started 164 houses have been dealt with by Orders but at the end of 1963 only 5 houses had actually been demolished.

It was not found necessary to deal with any individual unfit dwellings by way of demolition or closing orders.

Housing Improvement Grants

A total of 54 applications for standard grants was received during the year, of which one was refused because the work had been commenced before application was received. This is a slight increase on the applications received for the previous year which totalled 47.

A total of £4,042 was paid in improvement grants during the year in respect of 43 dwellings. This compares with £2,908 paid in the previous year for 34 dwellings. The amenities provided were:-

Baths	...	30
Wash-hand basins	...	37
Hot water supplies	...	40
Water closets	...	34
Food storage	...	24

Towards the end of 1962 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government informed local authorities that they should make greater efforts to encourage an increase in the number of houses being improved with the aid of grants, and especially to tackle the problem street by street or area by area, accompanied by an increase in publicity. Following this circular, two streets were selected in two separate areas of the Borough where the houses were of a type eminently suitable for improvement and where some had already been improved with the aid of grants. A survey of a total of 161 houses was carried out accompanied by some local press publicity. A letter explaining the scheme was left at each house in the area, together with a booklet published by the Ministry describing improvement grants. Wherever the co-operation of the occupier could be obtained, the house was inspected in detail and suggestions made as to the best and most economical manner of carrying out the work, technical queries answered and all important matters of probable cost and resulting rent increases dealt with.

During the survey it was discovered that 25% of the householders knew nothing about the grant system, 11% were vague, and most people who knew of the scheme quoted as their first source of information neighbours or friends who had actually received a grant, rather than what they had read or seen on television. This is in some respect due to the number of houses in each area already improved with the aid of grants.

Of the 161 houses in the area surveyed, 115 houses lacked one or more of the five standard amenities and 68 of them lacked four or more, and it is these latter houses which would benefit mostly from improvement, in general having no bath, hot water, wash-hand basins, or indoor toilets. Of the 115 houses lacking amenities fourteen owner/occupiers stated that they would like to improve the property with the aid of standard grant, and 27 tenants said they would be agreeable subject to the landlord's agreement. Of the large number remaining who indicated that they did not wish improvements to be carried out, 23 tenants refused because of their inability to afford the extra rent or because they did not want disturbance, being mostly elderly people and pensioners, and it was noted that many people gave as much stress to disturbance being the undesirable factor as to the financial consideration. Where tenants said that they would favour the installation of standard amenities and would be prepared to pay the extra rent a letter together with a Ministry leaflet describing improved grants was sent to the owners explaining how improvement was possible, and asking whether they would be agreeable to carrying out the necessary work. A note was provided for each owner to sign and return indicating whether or not he was agreeable to improve the property. Three owners replied declining improvement and one owner of six properties agreed to carry out improvements. No other replies were received from landlords.

The result of advertising in the local press was most disappointing since it resulted in only eight enquiries, most invalid, and only one of these became a firm application for standard grant.

The general result of the survey was also disappointing only 14 out of a possible 115 applications having been received from owners of houses within the areas surveyed, and it is felt that a proportion of these did not result from this particular propaganda but followed change of ownership where application for grant may have followed automatically.

In the light of experience since 1949, when improvement grants first became available, it would seem that nothing short of compulsory powers will encourage owners to take advantage of grants to enable them to provide what in this day and age must surely be regarded as essential household amenities.

The Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling Houses

During the year 113 complaints were received by the Department with respect to disrepair in dwelling houses. The District Public Health Inspectors made 1149 visits to 707 houses for initial inspections and subsequent re-inspections to see compliance with notices served, and to supervise repair work.

In connection with this work under the Housing and Public Health Acts, 11 statutory notices, and 212 preliminary written or verbal notices, and 148 Requisitions for Information as to ownership of premises were served during 1963.

It was found unnecessary for the Council to carry out repairs in default of owners.

Overcrowding

An increased number of 226 visits were required this year in respect of alleged overcrowding, and more statutory overcrowding was in fact found than was previously the case. Most of this is connected with houses in multiple occupation where the rents demanded make it almost impossible for families to afford the number of rooms they require to prevent overcrowding. In some cases it is found that in order to exploit his property to the full an owner/occupier overcrowds his own family into one or two rooms, and sub-lets the remainder of the house.

Many informal notices were sent with regard to overcrowding and the necessary reductions in numbers obtained. Seventeen notices under Section 90, Housing Act, 1957 were served on persons having control of houses occupied by members of more than one family, limiting the number of occupants for each room and for the house as a whole. With the increased penalties provided in connection with this section by the Housing Act, 1961 it is felt that this will generally prove an effective deterrent to further overcrowding of the particular premises.

In one case an owner eliminated overcrowding in a particular house following service on him of a notice under Section 90, Housing Act, 1957 but later it was found that he had again permitted certain rooms in the house to become overcrowded. Legal proceedings were instituted and fines of £5 on each of two counts were obtained. The deterrent value of these fines when compared to his income from the property appears slight, but the Bench did see fit to point out to the owner the possible penalties for a second offence - £100 fine and/or three months imprisonment, and this particular house has not been found to be overcrowded since.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

An increasing number of houses are being used for housing more than one family. Most of these houses are basically unsuitable for the purpose, lacking the facilities required for the additional lettings and not being capable of easy conversion into reasonable units.

It should be realised that the number of multi-occupied houses is now such as to form a major factor in the local housing situation, giving rise as it does to an increased demand for

rehousing by the local authority, increased cases of overcrowding and a general lowering of standards by reason of shared facilities which is completely at variance with the higher standards pursued so diligently since the war.

It is clear that a problem such as this will not resolve itself, and only positive action by the Council in the immediate future can prevent the situation deteriorating still further.

During the year the Council approved a standard of facilities to be applied to houses in multiple occupation, and considerable work has been done, informally, to obtain the provision of improved facilities. It appears, however, that little real progress will be made by informal action, and that compulsion by way of statutory notices under Section 15, Housing Act, 1936 will have to be resorted to.

The struggle to remove squalor, reduce overcrowding and to provide families with extra amenities is a sizable problem and has led to proposed new housing legislation now before Parliament.

Council Housing Estates

- (a) *Allocation of Council Houses.* One hundred and sixteen inspections were made by the District Public Health Inspectors for the purposes of ascertaining the existence of insanitary or sub-standard conditions of houses occupied by applicants under the Council's Housing Points Scheme, to enable a recommendation of award of points under this heading to be made.
- (b) *Council Housing Estates.* Liaison is maintained with the Housing Department on various matters concerning Council Estates and other Corporation property. Numerous visits of inspection of such properties were made by the District Public Health Inspectors in connection with structural defects, rodent control, vermin etc.

Caravans

It is estimated that well over a quarter of a million people live in caravans, and the National Caravan Council claim that this number could be doubled if additional sites were provided.

It may be argued that if people wish to live in caravans provision must be made for them, but it would be wrong to try to meet present housing deficiencies by a large scale increase in residential caravan sites.

The majority of people who choose to live in a caravan do so because of their inability to acquire a conventional type house. They are at least solving their housing problem for the time being in the face of the growing shortage of housing accommodation.

The caravan is undoubtedly fulfilling a national as well as an individual need, although it must be regarded as a sub-standard dwelling. Caravans are with us for the foreseeable future, and the aim is therefore to improve standards of caravan sites. The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 was designed to accomplish this.

Slough as an industrial town attracts labour from afar, and in the course of 12 months, scores of letters are received from the Department from all parts of the country asking for assistance in finding sites for would-be additions to Slough's labour force. The Department is unable to assist in this matter.

Within the Borough there are currently some 110 caravans licensed sites as follows:-

Foxborough Farm, Common Road, Langley	83 vans
Ditton Park Road Caravan Site	8 vans
Brook Path Caravan Site, Cippenham	8 vans (this site is subject to the 'running-down' policy of the Council)
Single vans on individual plots in various parts of the Town	14 vans

Generally speaking no problems arise on these sites since every attempt is made by the inspectors to see that the conditions the Site licences are well observed.

Some 514 visits of inspection were made to Caravan Sites during 1963.

e 'Gypsy' Problem

There is a real problem in many counties caused by the camping of so-called gypsies, tinkers or 'didicois'. These travellers move around the country dealing in scrap metal and the like, and in doing so leave the countryside in a hideous and insanitary mess.

Around the London area local authorities have provided some camping sites specially for these itinerant campers, and it is understood that more are under consideration. Eton Rural District Council have recently provided such a site at Iwer, close to the north-east corner of the borough boundary. It is understood that the results of these experiments have been satisfactory.

A commission in Dublin reported recently that there were an estimated 100,000 itinerants, gypsies and tinkers in England and that if anything, they were on the increase.

Apart from the public health aspects of this problem there are the human and social considerations. Some would rule out the concept of compulsory settlement, on the grounds that it would unnecessarily interfere with liberty, and a person's way of life apart from any difficulties which such a task would present.

Some research is no doubt called for as to why these people are continuing this way of life.

Some amongst these travellers would welcome a move to integrate them into normal community life, but many, it is felt, would not wish to accept this assistance. For these the setting up of specific camping sites, referred to above, on a regional basis may well be the answer. These sites would need to be properly appointed with all the essential amenities of water, sanitary accommodation, wash-houses etc., and of course on an economic rental basis. The initiative for such schemes could be taken up jointly by groups of local authorities.

This problem has existed in and around Slough for some years, particularly in the Langley area, around the Borough boundary at Chequers Bridge (B.R.) and on various parcels of land in the Common Road and Parlaunt Park areas. The problem in these areas will presumably be solved when the Parlaunt Park area is fully developed, and the Market Lane new road is completed, but this will not reduce the number of 'travellers' who will no doubt appear at other areas in or near the Borough.

Rent Act 1957

The provisions of the Rent Act 1957 with regard to the repair and maintenance of dwelling-houses, at first sight full of potential, have turned out in practice to be little used and therefore useless.

If the general provisions of the Act were re-enacted in such a way as to give the initiative to the local authority and not to the tenant then it could be of great assistance in the maintenance of older properties.

Encumbered as it is with a super-abundance of prescribed forms, and relying on the tenant to initiate action the Act is now a dead letter.

Only four applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year and one Certificate of Disrepair was issued. This in a town of over 20,000 dwellings, with the usual proportion of older rent-controlled properties, speaks for itself.

In all, 36 visits were made in connection with the Rent Act 1957.

Information re Local Land Charges etc.

Information as to statutory orders made in respect of dwelling-houses and non-complied-with notices requiring works of disrepair was supplied in respect of 1,852 properties upon request for official search of the Land Charges Register.

In addition, particulars as to properties were supplied in all cases in which mortgages were being arranged under the Housing Acts, in respect of the purchase of small dwellings. A number of requests for information was dealt with during the year as to whether properties changing hands were included in the Borough Council's Programme of Housing Clearance.

SECTION C

SAFEGUARDING OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Proper treatment and careful handling of food are essential, at all its stages from manufacture to customer, if danger is to be eliminated. Food poisoning can cause serious illness and is always caused by carelessness and avoidable accidents.

Everyone concerned in the handling of food is required by law to pay careful attention to the basic principles of hygiene. They have a great responsibility to the general public and the public health inspectors regard their work in relation to food generally as amongst the more important of their duties.

The activities of the Department in relation to food may be classified under these headings:- the hygiene of preparation, handling and display; inspection and compositional standards.

Food Hygiene

During 1963, 3,183 visits of inspection were made by the Public Health Inspectors to food premises within the Borough including food factories, catering establishments, factory and school canteens, bakeries, dairies, manufacturers and retailers of ice cream, markets, licensed premises, meat, fish, grocery and other retail shops. School Kitchens and canteens in Council and private schools were regularly inspected throughout the year.

Although the standard of food handling is high the premises in some instances are unsuitable. In such cases a report has been sent to the Education Officer and, where possible, some improvements resulted.

In spite of the ever-increasing use of plastics, stainless steel, glazed tiles and other excellent materials, the correct method of food handling is still the biggest problem in the field

of food hygiene. It is significant that many firms whose premises reach a high standard of perfection insist on a similar standard of personal hygiene because they know that food should be handled with scrupulous care and with the utmost attention to hygiene. Unhygienic practices in food handling are points which the Public Health Inspectors deal with at management level at the time of their inspections. Members of the general public in their own interest can contribute by being more critical and by reporting to this Department any incident which deserves the attention of its officers.

The Health and Sanitation Committee authorised legal proceedings in seven instances in respect of food found to be contaminated or otherwise unsound.

Milk Supply

The register of Dairies and Distributors of Milk (other than dairy farms and farmers) kept in the Department showed the following licences at the end of 1963:-

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	...	2
Dealer's (Pre-packed Milk) Licences			
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	32
Pasteurised	...	...	53
Sterilised	...	...	62

Since June, 1962, all milk sold retail in England and Wales must normally be "specially designated" milk, that is "pasteurised", "sterilised" or "tuberculin tested". The specification of areas whereby the use of the special designations for milk was made obligatory began in 1951 and the Borough all milk sold retail has for some years been in accordance with special designations. Therefore all milk sold within the Borough must be either heat-treated (pasteurised or sterilised) or tuberculin-tested, and this includes milk sold from automatic vending machines.

Two dairies in the Borough receive bulk milk from various suppliers for heat treatment and bottling, and two others receive milk already bottled for local distribution. All are visited regularly by the Public Health Inspectors, and 162 samples were taken by these officers for laboratory examination to ensure the efficacy of heat treatment. During the year 1963 visits were made to registered premises.

Both dairies continue to operate their own control laboratories to maintain a constant check on the quality of milk they receive, and I am pleased to report the willing and useful co-operation of the laboratory personnel with your Officers.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

During 1963, 207 samples of milk of various designations were procured for bacteriological examination. The details are shown in Table No. 4. Only 4 out of 75 samples failed to pass the prescribed tests.

TABLE NO. 4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK	
CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF SAMPLES
Pasteurised Milk	80
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	82
Tuberculin Tested Milk	40
Sterilised Milk	5

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice Cream

Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 requires that all premises used for the sale, the manufacture for the purpose of sale, or the storage of ice cream intended for sale, shall be registered with the Local Authority.

During 1963, 7 additional premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, 134 visits were made to registered premises, and 75 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination with the following results:-

TABLE NO. 5

METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST	
PROVISIONAL GRADE	SAMPLES
1) satisfactory	71
3) unsatisfactory	4
4)	

Attention has been given during inspections to the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations in the case of manufacturers and supervision has been maintained in the case of retailers, particularly itinerant vendors whose standards were generally satisfactory.

Preparation and Manufacture of Preserved Foods

At the end of 1963, 63 premises in the Borough were registered in pursuance of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of the manufacture of preserved foods as follows:-

Canning Factories	...	...	...	...	2
Preparation of Shell Fish	...	...	...	...	2
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	15
Manufacturers of Sausages and cooked meats	...	...	...	...	44

Bakehouses

At the end of 1963, there were 9 premises within the Borough registered as bakehouses, and frequent inspections throughout the year revealed that conditions were satisfactory.

Municipal Abattoir

Previous reports have referred to legislation giving effect to the Government's policy on slaughterhouses, and during the year a search has continued for a suitable site for the erection of a new abattoir.

In May, 1963 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food referred to the Minister's desire that all slaughterhouses should comply with the new standards of construction and hygiene at the earliest possible moment. It was further stated that the number of districts where this was not the case was rapidly diminishing; some evidence of progress was needed, therefore if both the Minister and the Council were to be free from criticism.

Messrs. Wilson Meats Ltd. attempted to obtain planning permission to erect an abattoir on land in close proximity to the Slough Cattle Market at Wexham, and this proposal was rejected by the Eton Rural District Council. The Company appealed to the Minister against this refusal, and the Borough Council were represented at the enquiry concerning this appeal on 5th December, 1963. The Minister's decision on this appeal was tantamount to a refusal.

In July, 1963 the Borough Council approved a proposed site at Chalvey on land in the ownership of Eton College, and felt that if for any reason this site was considered to be unsuitable, another attempt should be made in respect of the site proposed in 1961 on land near Cippenham Lodge on the South side of Cippenham Lane. (In May, 1961 the Minister refused permission on the application of the Borough Council for the erection of a Municipal Abattoir on this site.) Applications for planning permission were made in respect of these two sites but no decision was made. In November, 1963 the Borough Council

appealed to the Minister against the failure of the local planning authority to give notice of its decision on these two applications within the prescribed period.

During the year the slaughtering of animals for human consumption showed a further increase in the total throughput. A Public Health Inspector is in full time attendance at the Abattoir to supervise the running of the premises generally, and in particular to examine the carcasses and offals of all animals slaughtered.

The Abattoir facilities are available from Monday morning to Saturday noon inclusive. Slaughtering on Saturday afternoon and Sunday is not permitted except on special occasions. The premises are opened at 7.00 a.m. and closed as required up until 8.00 p.m. according to seasonal demands.

The following figures show the throughput of animals since the Borough Council took over the premises as a Municipal Abattoir in 1954.

TABLE NO. 6

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Total</i>
1954	2,977	5,351	3,460	1,078	12,866
1955	2,040	3,721	5,662	1,073	12,500
1956	1,990	3,736	4,854	1,135	11,715
1957	2,475	4,380	6,608	1,121	14,584
1958	3,370	5,585	8,683	987	18,625
1959	3,393	9,733	8,432	929	22,487
1960	3,764	6,898	8,281	1,083	20,026
1961	4,512	10,744	10,256	1,234	26,746
1962	4,205	11,477	13,312	1,142	30,136
1963	3,873	11,970	14,034	882	30,759

During the financial year ending 31st March, 1964 tolls for the use of the abattoir amounted to £4,070. This shows a slight decrease over the previous year of £38.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

In pursuance of the above Act, the Borough Council licensed 16 persons engaged in the slaughter of animals for human consumption.

No contraventions of the Act were observed in the use of the electrical and captive bolt stunning apparatus, both of these methods being efficient and humane.

The slaughtermen have performed their duties in the usual efficient manner, and to the satisfaction of the trade. Public Health Inspectors on full time duty at the abattoir are vigilant regarding the habits and methods of food handlers and persons using the premises are mindful of this fact, and generally react favourably to any minor food hygiene lecture that might be delivered on the spot.

The Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

One hundred per cent inspection of all carcasses and offal of animals slaughtered at the Municipal Abattoir was achieved by the Inspectors on duty. Each of the Inspectors carrying out this work possesses the Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for the inspection of meat and other foods.

Table No. 7 gives particulars of carcasses examined and rejected as unfit for human consumption.

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

These Regulations which came into operation on 1st October, 1963 replace, with amendments, the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 to 1952. The main provisions are that, except where the regulations permit, carcasses of animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption must not be removed from the place of slaughter until they have been inspected, passed as fit for human consumption, and marked in the manner prescribed in the regulations.

Schedules to the regulations contain provisions as to the manner in which inspectors are to carry out inspections and to the circumstances in which meat is to be regarded as unfit for human consumption.

Three hundred and sixty-two visits were made during 1963 to wholesale and retail food premises for the purpose of examining other foods. As a result of these visits over five tons of food, considered to be unfit for human consumption, voluntarily surrendered to the Corporation and destroyed.

Details of these foods are as follows:-

				Weight in lbs.
Canned Foods	...	...	...	8,170
Imported Meats	...	...	...	1,109
Fish	...	...	...	313
Manufactured Meats	...	...	...	60
Cheese and Butter	...	...	...	168
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	2,534

Disposal of Unsound Food

Carcases and offal rejected as unfit for human consumption are disposed of by two methods:-

- (a) Permission has been given to the Slaughtering Contractor to sell to approved collectors, on behalf of the owners, such rejected meat as the Inspecting Officer considers suitable for sterilisation and processing into animal feeding stuffs and fertilizers.
- (b) Rejected carcases and offal not considered suitable for processing are destroyed.

Other foodstuffs are collected and disposed of by tipping.

Hygiene of Meat Transport

No legal proceedings were necessary under this heading due to the regular observations kept by the District Public Health Inspectors. It has been necessary in a limited number of cases to issue warnings where the standards of cleanliness both in regard to vehicles and protective clothing were not considered adequate. These warnings have proved effective.

Food Hawkers

Vehicles and storage places used by these traders are regularly inspected under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

The registration by the Borough Council of hawkers of certain classes of food has been compulsory since 1959, when Section 115 of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949 was implemented.

At the end of 1963 there were 30 hawkers on the register.

TABLE NO. 7
SLOUGH MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR

Summary of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned					
	CATTLE EX. COWS	COWS	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	CAL
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	2,827	1,046	11,970	14,034	88
Disease except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	8	17	58	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	582	332	263	823	
% of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.5	32.5	2.3	6.3	1.
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	"	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	270	-
% of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.1	-	-	1.9	-
Cysticercosis (C. Bovis)					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	64	9	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	37	4	-	-	-
Generalized condition whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-

TABLE NO. 8

Weights of Condemned Meat					
	TUBERCULOSIS			OTHER DISEASES	
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.
Carcasses	2	3	14	111	3
Parts of Carcasses and Organs	25	3	18	157	2
TOTALS ...	28	3	4	269	2
TOTAL WEIGHT 14 tons 18 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lbs.					

FOOD AND DRUGS

Compositional Standards and Quality

Two hundred and two samples of food and drugs were sent to the Public Analyst during the year as shown in Table No. 9, the unsatisfactory samples being shown in Table No. 10.

Of the unsatisfactory samples, the one of dehydrated peas was of a nationally known brand, the label of which the manufacturer agreed to alter. The starch reduced rolls had been in stock for a long time, and had become mouldy, despite the fact that the manufacturers stated that the normal moisture content was so low as to render this extremely unlikely. The milk chocolate also had been in stock at the retailer's premises for longer than it should have been resulting in the disappearance of the alcohol content of the Jamaica rum with which it was claimed it had been made.

Along with the increase in the number of supermarkets it is found that many of the smaller retail grocers are going over to the self-service type of shop, with its attendant technique of prepackaging. The result is that many of the foods now sold are from large national companies whose names appear regularly in a wide range of products and who have international reputations, and the packets, tins and bottles on the shelves of one small general shop in a side street almost duplicate those of any other similar small shop.

All of the fifty-one samples of spirits tested in the Department during the year were satisfactory; in fact no instance of adulterated spirits has been detected in the Borough since 1960.

All of the sixty-eight informal samples of ice cream examined in the Department contained over the minimum of 5% fat, as laid down by the Regulations. It is worthy of mention that this 5% fat can be of vegetable origin as long as the commodity is called 'ice cream', but as soon as the term 'cream ice' is used, the whole fat content must be milk fat. Ice cream must, in addition to the minimum fat content prescribed, contain not less than 7½% of milk solids other than fat and no artificial sweeteners, but it can contain up to five parts per million arsenic.

A total of two hundred and twenty-two informal samples of milk were examined in the Department for fat and solids-not-fat content. The average for the whole year being:

	<i>Fat</i>	<i>Solids-not-fat</i>
Channel Island Milk	4.6%	9.1%
Other Milk	3.7%	8.7%

The majority of these samples were taken from churns on delivery to the dairies, but some were taken of the finished product, bottled ready for delivery to the customer. The averages shown above are satisfactory and are comparable with the national figures. No case of added water was detected in any of the milk, but there were a few isolated samples which were low in fat or solids-not-fat content. When the milk is bulked in the dairy the poorer quality milks are adequately balanced by those of a better quality.

Complaints relating to Food

There has been a steady increase in the number of complaints received in the Department relating to the sale of food containing foreign bodies, and food which was in some way inedible or in unsatisfactory containers. In 1961 there were thirty-four such complaints; in 1962 this increased to fifty-and during 1963 the total was seventy-three. Of the complaints received, bread formed the subject of eighteen, followed by twelve in relation to meat and meat products, and nine in relation to milk and milk bottles. Pies accounted for only three complaints.

A number of complaints were of an almost trivial nature such as the outside of a milk bottle being scratched by the division wires in the milk bottle crates, a loaf of bread which was merely stale, a loaf of bread containing a few ordinary currants, and cheese which the complainant alleged tasted strong.

This remarkable increase is not thought to be due to any retrogression in the standard of food handling or packing, but due to an increasing awareness on the part of the general public, and a readiness to make a formal complaint. This is noticeable in the complaints received following newspaper publicity regarding prosecutions for food offences in the local courts.

Summary proceedings were instituted following seven of the complaints, and in five of these cases additional charges were laid when the vendors' premises were inspected by officers of this Department.

It has been noticed nationally that a distinct change has taken place in the type of prosecution relating to food offences, and while there has been an increase in prosecutions relating to the sale of unsound food and food containing foreign bodies, the number relating to frank adulteration has declined. Having regard to the increased mechanisation and speed of food production and packaging, it is doubtful if the accidental presence of foreign bodies in food will ever be prevented. Prosecution may serve as a deterrent in some cases but in others, where the offence is the result of pure accident it can be argued that a lot of time and money is misplaced.

Many large retail food distributors already take the utmost precautions to ensure the purity of their food, and when prosecuted for what is more likely to have been pure accident often rightly say 'What more can we do ?'

This does not diminish their responsibility for ensuring that their products when sold to the customer are pure and wholesome, but there is a vast difference between the chance sale of food containing say a harmless piece of hemp from a flour sack, to the seriousness of the sale of the same food containing, say, a cigarette end which in itself can be indicative of negligence and lack of supervision at the manufacturers' premises or at some other stage before it reaches the customer.

Merchandise Marks Acts

A survey was carried out by an inspector of this Department accompanied by the Regional Officer of the Tomato and Cucumber Marketing Board in June, when it is sometimes a practice to sell imported tomatoes without any indication of origin as required by the Merchandise Marks (Imported) Goods No. 4 Order, 1929. A number of shops was visited in the town, and several of these were found to be contravening this Order. The occupiers of the shops were cautioned in writing. No further offences have come to light.

TABLE NO. 9.

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples submitted to the Public Analyst

FOODS	PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Almonds, ground	1			
Acne cream		1		
Bicarbonate of Soda B.P. ...	1			
Blancmange Powder	1			
Breadcrumbs	1			
Bread Mix	1			
Butter	3			
Butter Beans	1			
Butter Jam Pudding	1			
Caraway Seeds	1			
Carrots	1			
Caviar	1			
Cheese	5			
Chicken Cubes	1			
Chiffon	1			
Chili	1			
Chocolate Sponge Mix	1			
Coffee, Instant	1			
Creamed Coconut	1			
Cream	4			
Curry Powder	1			
Custard Powder	1			
Date Sponge Pudding	1			
Dripping	1			
Fish	9			
Fish Paste	5			
Flour	3			
Flour Confectionery	8	1		
Fruit, Canned	2	7		
Fruit, Dried	5			
Fruit Pectin	1			
Gelatin	1			
Ghee	1			
Ground Nut Oil	1			
Ice-Cream	4			
Ice Lolly	1			
Ice Lolly Mix	1			
Influenza and Cold Mixture ...	-	1		
Jelly	2			
c/f	76	10	-	1

TABLE NO. 9 (cont'd)

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples submitted to the Public Analyst

FOODS	PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
b/f	76	10	-	1
Lemonade Crystals ...	2			
Mace ...	1			
Margarine ...	1			
Meat Paste ...	4			
Meat Products ...	27	3		
Milk, Condensed ...	1			
Mustard ...	4			
Olives ...	1			
Onions, Dried ...	1			
Peas ...	6	1	1	
Pepper ...	1			
Pickles and Sauces ...	9			
Potato Chips, Fried ...	1			
Preserves ...	12			
Puff Pastry ...	1			
Pudding Mix ...	1			
Rice, Ground ...	1			
Rolls, Starch Reduced ...		1		1
Sausages ...	5			
Soft Drinks ...	-	1		
Sweetener ...	1			
Sugar ...	1			
Sugar Confectionery ...	10	8	1	
Sweet Corn ...	1			
Syrup, Banana Flavoured ...	1			
Tea ...	1			
Tomatoes, Peeled ...	1			
Vinegar ...	3			
Walnuts, shelled ...	1			
Welsh Rarebit ...	1			
Yoghurt ...	2			
TOTAL ...	178	24	2	2

TABLE NO. 10

Food and Drugs Samples reported to be not Genuine

SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
482	Buttered Scone	Contained two pieces of glass	Summary proceedings under Food and Drugs Act, 1955
389	Milk Chocolate	Falsely stated to be made with old Jamaica Rum	Manufacturer and retail cautioned
26	Peas	Sample was dehydrated and should have been described as such	Manufacturer agreed to alter label
116	Starch Reduced Rolls	Affected by mould spores and hyphae	Manufacturer and retail cautioned

SECTION D

CLEAN AIR

During the year this subject received a considerable amount of publicity regarding the supply position of certain smokeless fuels. This has probably resulted from the changing position whereby the production of gas by the carbonisation of coal is likely to be superseded by methods involving the use of oil, natural gas or total coal gasification. Supplies of open fire coke which formerly constituted a major by-product of the gas industry will gradually be reduced.

The whole concept of smoke control areas will be changing as a result of the reduced production of open-fire coke. Hitherto grants have been based on the provision of open fire burning gas coke. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government published a circular in December setting out changes in the details appertaining to the making of smoke control orders. In the future, where there is likely to be a shortage of open-fire gas coke, grants will be made available for the installation of a much wider range of heating appliances. These include open stoves and under-floor draught open fires capable of burning hard coke, supplies of which are likely to be plentiful, also fixed gas heaters, electric storage heaters using off-peak electricity, and fixed oil heaters.

There is a growing tendency for householders to change from solid fuel to gas, electricity and oil. With the improvement of grant facilities available this tendency is likely to increase.

so that less solid fuel will be used in houses. It is important to note that as less solid fuel is used, so the amount of sulphur dioxide given off into the atmosphere will be reduced. In the past the fact that the smoke was removed and nothing was done about the sulphur dioxide was an argument sometimes used against smoke control. Under the revised arrangements therefore, smoke control orders will be much more effective in cleaning the air.

Smoke Control Areas

During the year two more smoke control orders became operative, No. 4 Smoke Control Order came into operation on 1st September and No. 5 Order came into operation on 1st November. By the end of the year there were five orders in operation covering some 5,314 premises and 1,354 acres.

The co-operation of the public generally has been good and no official objections were made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in respect of the making of these five Smoke Control Orders now in operation.

Every effort is made to inform the householders of the full details of smoke control. A booklet entitled 'Smoke is your Enemy' is sent to each householder before the detailed survey is commenced. Each house in the proposed area is visited and the types of heating appliances together with the recommended adaptations are recorded. Similarly all factories and commercial buildings are visited to ensure that their heating arrangements will comply with the requirements of the smoke control order. From time to time visits to smoke control areas are made by the mobile exhibition of the Coal Utilisation Council, the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation and the North Thames Gas Board. These exhibitions are able to move around the areas and are manned by technical personnel who are qualified to advise on the selection and use of appliances and authorised fuels.

Every adaptation to a firegrate is inspected by the technical officer before a grant is paid. This is important because the correct installation of modern appliances has a direct bearing on their efficiency.

Measurement of Air Pollution

Several different types of air pollution recording apparatus have been in continuous use in the town since May, 1957. In October, 1961, Slough became one of a large number of towns throughout the country to take part in a National Survey of Air Pollution in conjunction with the Air Pollution Section of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Five volumetric and smoke filter instruments are in daily use in this survey and are set up in different stations within the Borough. These stations are visited daily excluding weekends.

The remaining air pollution instruments, which have been in use since 1957, consist of three deposit gauges and seven lead peroxide instruments which are stationed at various points throughout the Borough, mostly within school property.

The results of all these recording instruments are forwarded to the D.S.I.R. and are published later in their Bulletins.

Industrial

The provisions regarding the emission of dark and black smoke from industrial chimneys are contained in Sections 1 and 2 of the Clean Air Act, 1956. The Dark Smoke (Permitted Period) Regulations, 1958 were made giving details of permissible periods of emission of dark and black smoke.

In July, 1963, the period of seven years of temporary exemption from the provision of Section 1 expired. These exemptions provided that where any proceedings were being taken for a contravention of Section 1 (the emission of dark smoke) it was a defence to prove:

- (a) that the contravention was due to the nature of the building or its equipment and was not due to any failure properly to maintain the building, or properly to maintain and use the equipment of the building; and
- (b) that it had not been practicable to alter or equip the building so as to enable it to be used or fully used for the purpose for which it was intended without the likelihood of contraventions of the said section 1.

A local authority had the power to issue certificates of exemption to applicants in respect of any building but all such certificates ceased to be valid in July, 1963.

The control of new chimney heights is dealt with in Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956. This enables local authorities to reject the plans submitted in accordance with Building Byelaws unless they are satisfied that the chimney height is sufficient to allow for the disposal of smoke, grit, dust and gases so as not to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance having regard to:-

- (a) the purpose of the chimney,
- (b) the position and description of buildings nearby,
- (c) the levels of the neighbouring ground and
- (d) any other matters requiring consideration in the circumstances.

For some time there has been no uniformity amongst different local authorities regarding the minimum heights for chimneys. During 1963 however, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued a memorandum on chimney heights which sets a standard for the minimum height of chimneys. The memorandum gives tables for calculating the chimney heights which are based on the amount of sulphur dioxide emitted from the furnace. The memorandum is not applicable to all chimneys but only to (a) chimneys of industrial boiler plant of maximum continuous rating greater than approximately 650 lbs. of steam per hour and not exceeding 450,000 lbs. of steam per hour, or to (b) chimneys serving furnaces burning fuel at a maximum rate greater than 100 lbs/hour of coal or 50 lbs/hour of oil, and not exceeding 50,000 lbs/hour of coal or 30,000 lbs/hour of oil. This range covers the majority of boilers which are normally installed in industry.

A close liaison has been maintained with the Borough Engineer's Department regarding plans submitted in which new chimneys are proposed.

Prior Approval

Under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 notice of intention to instal a new furnace must be given to the local authority and such new furnaces shall be, so far as is practicable, smokeless in operation. A firm may, if they wish, apply for Prior Approval of the new furnace before the installation commences. The proposal is examined by officers of this Department and if they are satisfied that the plant will operate smokelessly, Prior Approval is granted. Most firms take advantage of this scheme since it is a means of safeguarding their interests at no extra expense to themselves. During the year 12 applications for Prior Approval were received and granted in respect of new furnaces within the Borough.

Administration and Statistics

All matters relating to the Clean Air Act including Smoke Control and the recording of atmospheric pollution are under the control of a separate section of administration. This section is operated by a Public Health Inspector specialising in this work together with a Technical Assistant who is largely responsible for house to house investigation in smoke control areas.

The work of the Department in relation to Clean Air is summarised as follows:-

Visits to Domestic Premises regarding smoke control	-	2,227
Visits to industrial premises	-	98
Visits re Prior Approval	-	24

Visits to smoke control areas in operation	-	242
Interviews re smoke control	-	711
Number of smoke observations	-	132
Number of complaints re smoke etc.	-	37
Visits in connection with the measurement of air pollution	-	1,578

Your Chairman and I represent the Corporation on the National Society for Clean Air and the Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Committee. The Society's Annual Conference at Scarborough was attended by Councillor M.J. Sheehy and the Public Health Inspector (Special Duties) Smoke Control.

SECTION E

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS

During 1963 considerable expansion took place on the Slough Trading Estate with the erection of new factories on land at the western end of the Estate. The number of factories in the Corporation's register for 1963 has increased to 608. The factories cover many different trades and processes and vary widely in size. Some establishments employ several hundred persons, whilst on the other hand, there are small factories employing only a handful of persons.

All but 37 of these are factories where mechanical power is used and are the concern of the local authority only in respect of the adequacy, arrangement and maintenance of sanitary accommodation. For other purposes they are controlled by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

With regard to the 'non-power' factories, the Council is the enforcing authority under the Factories Act, 1961, in respect of cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and sanitary accommodation.

Under the Factories Act, requirements in respect of means of escape in case of fire are dealt with by the County Fire Brigade.

Now that the H.M. Inspector of Factories has been moved to Slough, even closer liaison than before can be attained.

Tables 11 and 12 give the statistical information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Some 444 inspections of factories were made in 1963 and where defects under the Factories Act and Sanitary Accommodation Regulations were found the persons concerned were notified in order that the necessary works could be carried out to ensure that the requirements of the Act or Regulations were fulfilled.

Inspections were also carried out under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 of factories where food is handled or processed. I am pleased to report that a satisfactory standard was found to exist in these premises.

All plans deposited with the Borough Engineer for Planning and Byelaw approval are examined in order to ascertain whether there are any matters which are the concern of this Department.

Investigations are carried out with regard to public health and noise nuisances. Similar investigations are carried out following alleged offences under the Clean Air Act 1956, but these are few and far between due to the care exercised by factory management in general, to conform with the requirements of this Act.

TABLE NO. 11

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES				
PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF		
		INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIED PROSECUTED
1 Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	37	26	Nil	Nil
2 Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	565	401	2	Nil
3 Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	17	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	608	444	2	Nil

TABLE NO. 12

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED AT FACTORIES					
PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				NO. OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTION WERE INSTITUTED
	FND.	REMEDIED	REFERRED		
			TO H.M. INSPECTOR	BY H.M. INSPECTOR	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	2	-	2	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	1	1	-	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	1	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	6	3	2	2	-

Outworkers

Those firms who employ persons to carry out work outside their factory premises are required by the Factories Act 1961 to furnish the local authority, during February and August, with lists giving the names and addresses of all such 'outworkers'.

The premises where this work is carried out, invariably dwelling-houses, are then subjected to inspection by your officers for the purpose of ensuring that working conditions are satisfactory.

The returns for 1963 showed some 69 premises within the borough where 'homework' was carried out. All were found to be satisfactory.

Drinking Water

One certificate of approval of drinking water supply was granted in pursuance of Section 57 of the Factories Act 1961 in respect of a factory with a deep well supply.

Shops Act 1950 and Young Persons Employment Act 1938

Inspections under the above Acts were carried out during the year and where necessary improvements were effected.

Workplaces

Certain premises which are neither factories nor shops are included under the heading of workplaces. In the main they are one man workshops, and they are inspected to ensure that satisfactory standards of sanitary accommodation, ventilation, cleanliness and overcrowding required by Sections 46 and 92 of the Public Health Act 1936 are observed. 19 visits were made during the year.

Places of Entertainment

Several visits of inspection were made during the year to places of entertainment, and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

This Act which makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in offices, shops and certain railway premises, became law on 31st July 1963.

It is a comprehensive Act which places responsibilities on owners and occupiers of such premises to see that their premises conform to the requirements of the Act.

Enforcing Authorities are the H.M. Inspector of Factories, the Fire Authority and the Local Authority.

The main provisions of the Act come into operation on 1 August 1964 by which date registration of premises effected by its requirements should be completed.

Means of escape in case of fire are the responsibility of either the H.M. Inspector of Factories or the Fire Authority. The general provisions of the Act other than Fire are to be administered either by the H.M. Inspector of Factories or the Local Authority as the case may be.

By the advent of this Act another important stage has been reached in the raising of the general health standards of the nation. It is estimated that it will cover some 1 million premises where 8 million people have hitherto been unprotected in matters of welfare and safety.

SECTION F

PEST INFESTATION AND DISINFESTATION

Despite some impressive advances in the methods of pest destruction in the last 15 years, the cost to the country as a whole in terms of property damage, food spoilage and possibly disease is estimated in millions of pounds per year.

The Pest Control section of the Department is therefore of vital importance and its efforts can be regarded as a valuable contribution to public health. It is believed to be well equipped for discharging the requirements of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, which places the duty on the Slough Borough Council to carry out Pest Control work.

Since Pest Control is a basic necessity in environment and health it cannot be over-stressed that occupiers of premises should practise the basic principles of hygiene e.g. proper disposal of waste food and the removal of refuse which attract rodents and insects. Again one cannot stress too often the need for reporting immediately any infestation which is discovered so that the action can be taken.

The pest control officer is responsible for supervising the whole of this work, in which 5 manual workers are engaged and since pest infestation is so closely associated with food and physical defects in property it follows that there must be a very close liaison between the pest control officer and the district public health inspectors.

The rodent control service is provided free to domestic premises but a charge is made for work done on all business premises, some of which are serviced by annual agreement.

Pests other than rats and mice are dealt with as occasion arises on a chargeable basis.

Much has been written and said in recent years concerning possible dangers from the use of new chemical weapons against pests and weeds. There has been an outcry regarding the death of wild life attributed to the use of pesticides.

The ideal pesticide is one which is harmless to all but the pest it seeks to eradicate.

The Government are continually being advised by a Committee which has been set up to investigate the use of poisonous substances, and in particular to determine the toxicological significance of the use of pesticides in relation to animal and plant tissues, and generally to study the behaviour of pests. It has been said that while there is no great cause for alarm regarding the use of pesticides there is no room for complacency.

Rats and mice have no respect for persons or places; they infest stately homes and humble dwellings with equanimity. Rats are constantly searching for food which they hoard, and living quarters present no problems as they are resourceful and adaptable.

The amount of damage caused by rodents reaches alarming proportions. Power stations, gas supplies and water supplies can be rendered useless by rodents gnawing cables and pipes, and the possibility of rodents spreading disease cannot be ignored.

It is pleasing to record that the interest and co-operation of the general public has increased. Citizens are quick to inform the Department of signs of infestation by rodents.

During 1963 the District Public Health Inspectors and the Pest Control Officer during the course of their duties investigated 807 infestations which were subsequently treated.

The Pest Control Officer made 1048 visits to premises in connection with surveys, giving advice to owners and occupiers about rat and mouse proofing of business premises and private houses, and supervising the work of the rodent operators.

There were 480 notifications of rat infestation and 116 notifications of mouse infestation.

Rat control in sewers in Slough has not presented any problem in recent years. Test baiting of a proportion of manholes the system has shown no increase in infestation.

Table No. 13 gives a summary of the rodent operators' work during 1963.

Annual Agreement Scheme

Since 1949 the Council have operated a Rodent Control annual agreement scheme for business premises. These premises are surveyed at regular intervals and all infestations are treated immediately.

Considerable effort has been made over the years to encourage industrial and commercial concerns to participate in the scheme, and it is believed that this prompt and efficient service is much appreciated.

During 1963, 113 premises were serviced under the Council's scheme and the total income from these agreements amounted to £1,508. The scheme has continued to operate on a self-supporting basis and charges are made according to the size and type of premises.

Workable Area Committee

The South Bucks and East Berks Workable Area Committee, convened by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is supported by most Local Authorities in the area. Officers and members meet twice a year, thus providing a common ground for discussion and exchange of information on topics which continually arise in this sphere.

By films and demonstrations of equipment one learns of the behaviour of pests and also of new methods of treatment.

Scientific research personnel of the Ministry's Infestation Division give lectures on the various aspects of their work.

These meetings are indeed very worthwhile and in recent years the Committee has widened its scope to include, in addition to rodent control, all matters relating to land pest and insect control. Your Chairman and I represent the Borough Council.

Other Pests

A few complaints of pests other than rodents were received and treatments were carried out as follows:-

<i>Wasps</i>	<i>Flies</i>	<i>Beetles</i>	<i>Other Pests</i>
14	2	2	7

Disinfestation and Disinfection

Bedding and other articles were disinfected and disinfested by steam.

A number of premises and articles were also disinfected by sealing the rooms and by using a formaldehyde fumigant.

The following work was supervised by the Pest Control Officer during the year.

Premises disinfected	-	5
Premises disinfested	-	61

In addition, bedding and articles of clothing from some premises associated with infestation by vermin were destroyed under the supervision of the Pest Control Officer.

TABLE NO. 13

Rodent Infestation Control (Rodent Operators)							
	PRIVATE DWELLINGS	BUSINESS PREMISES		REFUSE DESTRUCTOR TIPS DUMPS ETC.	PARKS HEDGES DITCHES ETC.	OTHER COUNCIL PROPERTIES	TOTAL
		ANNUAL AGREEMENT SCHEME	SHORT TERM ACTION				
1. Investigations made	3,368	1,090	180	48	218	217	5,121
2. Treatments carried out by the Corporation	1,642	691	102	41	39	49	2,564
3. Poison baits laid	7,570	7,624	797	644	1,058	1,497	19,190
4. Poison baits taken	4,121	2,117	318	383	747	884	8,570
5. No. of visits made	7,010	1,431	246	119	280	321	9,407

SECTION G

MISCELLANEOUS

Noise

Mention was made in the Annual Report for 1962 of the Report of the Wilson Committee which was published in 1963. This Committee was appointed by the Lord President of the Council and Minister for Science to examine the nature, sources and effects of the problem of noise, and to advise what further measures could be taken to mitigate it. The subject was dealt with at great length, and although so far no resultant legislation has reached the Statute Book, much has been said and written on the subject of noise, and currently a great deal of research is in progress. Much of this research is in the field of aircraft noise related to present day jet-aircraft while some of it refers to the supersonic aircraft of the future; one shudders to think what such problems will be, since those attaching to existing jet aircraft would so far seem to be almost insoluble.

Many people would agree that the aircraft is by far the greatest offender in noise production, and since such noise is exempted from the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act 1960, one can readily sympathise with the view that the Act makes nonsense of the whole subject in its application to those matters with which it was designed to deal.

Over the years with increasing industrial activity, road vehicles, aircraft and similar adjuncts to what we choose to know as civilisation, there has been a gradual but definite increase in noise. So gradual in fact that there is a danger that many people may have got so used to noise that they accept it as a necessary evil and adopt a principle of laissez-faire. In Slough High Street, for example, the general hubbub could almost go un-noticed, until the pedestrian crossing lights change and the traffic comes to a halt and one is suddenly aware of what seems to be an absolute silence, with a resultant feeling of relief, as the ear is no longer subject to such a wide range of frequencies and sound pressure.

Just as individuals in a community differ in a characteristic such as appearance, so they also differ in their tolerance of noise. Noise which is a nuisance to one person may be quite acceptable to another, and similarly noise which would go un-noticed in the centre of a factory, might disturb quite a number of people in the quieter parts of a country district. The road breaker added to a battery of ten would not be noticed in the general clatter, yet on its own would, and often does, cause a considerable amount of discomfort to people in the vicinity.

Noise is so subjective, ranging from person to person, that it is difficult to lay down in precise scientific terms a legal code of what should or should not be allowed. Which is more annoying, the few seconds of intense noise from a large jet aircraft passing overhead, or the very quiet but persistent dripping of a tap through the still hours of the night ?

What is generally agreed is that a lot of the annoyance from noise can and should be reduced in some way, and much money and thought has been spent to this end, mostly without legal compulsion. Aircraft engines have been made a little less noisy, although on some days in the neighbourhood of London Airport this is difficult to believe. Simple adaptors are available to fit to the rims and lids of dust-bins; devices can be fitted to pneumatic road breakers to reduce audible noise; improvement has been effected in building design, and in many other directions efforts have been made to give us but a little peace and quiet. Despite these efforts much inconvenience is caused by thoughtlessness on the part of the individual and the remedy costs nothing, whether it be by closing doors quietly or turning down the radio so as not to annoy the neighbours.

During 1963 several complaints were received alleging noise nuisances. Some 55 visits were made in connection with these and associated complaints, but upon investigation none was found to constitute a statutory nuisance within the meaning of the Noise Abatement Act 1960.

Water Supply

In 1963 some 76 visits were made in connection with water supplies and swimming bath waters, and following samples were procured:-

Domestic Water Supplies

Wells	4
--------------	---

Swimming Bath Waters

Slough Community Centre	56
Slough Lido	33
Licensed Victuallers' School	6
St. Bernard's Convent	3
Long Close School	3
Thomas Gray School	10
Langley County Secondary School	8
Langley Grammar School	6

Hairdressers

During 1963 all hairdressing establishments in the town were subjected to routine inspections by the District Public Health Inspectors.

At the end of the year there were 65 premises registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdresser and/or barber under Section 82 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act 1957 which was adopted by the Borough Council in 1959. The Council also made Byelaws for the securing of cleanliness of premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing. Reasonably good standards were found at these premises.

Offensive Trades

During the year the Council granted the necessary consent in the cases of two rag and bone dealers and a soap boiler who are now the only offensive trades scheduled under the Public Health Act 1936 which operate within the Borough.

Inspections throughout the year showed these premises were being operated satisfactorily and without nuisance.

House Drainage

One hundred and seventy-two complaints were received during 1963 concerning defective or choked drainage and sanitary fittings. The District Inspectors made some 318 visits for the purpose of investigating, testing and supervising remedial works in progress. At several premises drainage systems were reconstructed and other sanitary improvements were effected at 38 premises. Further progress was made with the abolition of cesspools during the year.

Storage of Petroleum

Within the Borough of Slough there are some 192 premises where 699,687 gallons of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures are stored, together with 4 premises storing 2,382 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

The storage of these liquids and substances is required by the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts 1928 and 1936 to be subject to licence granted by the local authority. The Slough Borough Council can attach to the licence such conditions as they think fit. The Home Office advise on codes of practice and in general these are followed by the Council with slight variations to suit local circumstances.

In a town of the size and character of Slough, constant supervision and inspection by the technical officers are necessary to ensure that the conditions attached to licences are being observed, and because of the potential fire risks involved nothing short of vigorous enforcement of the requirements of the Acts is sufficient.

Close liaison exists between this Department and officers of the Buckinghamshire Fire Service on problems which arise from time to time. On behalf of the Council the Southern Electricity Board examine periodically every installation to see that all electrical equipment associated with petrol pumps is in good condition, in addition to that of new installations during the course of the year.

During 1963, 559 visits of inspection were made in connection with the storage of petroleum.

Hackney Carriages

In 1962 the Borough Council decided to increase the number of licensed hackney carriages from 30 to 35, and accordingly, with effect from 1st December 1962, 35 licences were issued for the period ending 30th November, 1963.

The legislation under which the Slough Borough Council exercise their control of hackney carriages is the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 together with Byelaws made thereunder.

Each vehicle receives an annual inspection by Consulting Engineers who are appointed and paid by the Corporation. Licences are only issued in respect of vehicles which are mechanically fit and safe for public service. During the year there were 18 transfers to newer vehicles. The age of vehicles licensed in 1963 is as follows:-

<i>Year of Registration</i>	<i>Number of Vehicles</i>
1955	1
1959	1
1960	2
1961	5
1962	12
1963	14
TOTAL 35	

All but 5 vehicles are driven by their owners. Of these 5 vehicles, one proprietor owns 3 vehicles, and one proprietor owns 2 vehicles.

Licences were granted in respect of 44 hackney carriage drivers. As a measure of control designed to safeguard the public each driver must satisfy the Council as to his medical fitness to drive a hackney carriage.

Two hundred and twelve visits were made during 1963 in connection with hackney carriage licensing, for examination of vehicles on the rank and at the Corporation's Highways Department for cleanliness and to check on the observance of byelaws generally.

Only two complaints were received from members of the public during the year, and these were dealt with by informal action.

I am able to report that this service has been operated efficiently throughout the year.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations 1953

Routine visits were made to premises for the purpose of these regulations.

All new heating appliances seen were fitted with satisfactory guards. No contraventions of the Regulations were noted.

Licensing of Game Dealers

Ten licences were granted by the Corporation authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Registries for Female Domestic Servants

Although there are still 5 Female Domestic Servants' agencies registered in the Borough, registration is a token only and the amount of business carried out in domestic servants registration is apparently negligible.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metal

Five premises are registered under the Public Health Amendment Act 1907, four of them belonging to one firm. Several visits were made for the purpose of checking that the necessary requirements were being observed.

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION 1963

Chairman

COUNCILLOR MRS. E.E. SCOTT-PICTON

Vice-Chairman

ALDERMAN P. LIGHTFOOT

ALDERMAN N.M. ESCHLE.
ALDERMAN MRS. M.J. MORGAN
ALDERMAN A.W.J. PUSEY
COUNCILLOR R.A. CAIL
COUNCILLOR R.F. EVERETT
COUNCILLOR A. HACKER
COUNCILLOR E.J. JAMES

COUNCILLOR J.B. MCSWEENEY
COUNCILLOR C.D. MERRILLS
COUNCILLOR C.A. PENN
COUNCILLOR J. RIGBY
COUNCILLOR P.T. SMART
COUNCILLOR H.F. TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR L.S. WILLIS

Co-opted Members

MR. G. BATE
REV. F.V. BURNS
MR. A.S. HUMPHERYES
MR. F.W. SPOLTON
COUNCILLOR K. WRIGHT

Borough Education Officer

C.S. SMYTH, B.A.

Staff Engaged in Medical Inspections during 1963

Divisional School Medical
Officer:

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

Assistant School Medical
Officers:

JOAN GRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.
ROY A. MATTHEWS, M.B., B.
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.
ANNE M. DIXON, M.B., B.S.
D.P.H.

Ophthalmic Surgeon

C.B.V. TAIT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S., R.C.P.S.
(Part-time services made available by arrangement with the
North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board)

Child Guidance Clinic

Mildred I. Pott, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.C.H., D.P.M.

(Part-time service made available by arrangement with the
North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board)

Educational Psychologist - MISS J.M. FREEMAN, B.A.

School Dental Surgeons

Orthodontist: MISS A.M. BLANDFORD, L.D.S., D.Orth.

Dental Officers: MR. P.D. BRISTOW, L.D.S., R.C.S.

MR. C. HOWARD, B.D.S., L.D.S.

DR. EVA DEUTSCH, M.D., (Vienna)
(Part-time)

MRS. B.A. MAUDSLEY, B.D.S., L.D.S.
(Part-time)

Speech Therapists

MISS P. SINGER

MRS. R.B. SWALLOW (Part-time)

Nursing Staff

MISS M.F. WELLER, Area Superintendent Health Visitor

Health Visitors - 6

School Health Assistants - 4

*

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F

T H E S C H O O L H E A L T H S E R V I C E , 1 9 6 3

The Minister of Education approved the scheme for Slough to act as an Excepted District under the Education Act, 1944 from 21st May, 1962 and I have the honour to present the report of the school health service as it affected the children of the town during the first full year of its function under the new scheme.

The change in status has, in fact, produced relatively little change in the school health service although administrative procedures have altered somewhat.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the town's school health service is the method of medical inspections. In most places the medical examinations are carried out annually in each school; in Slough, as the result of an experiment some years ago, visits are paid by doctors to each school every term or even more than once a term. I am convinced, not only by the observations by the school health service staff but also by the teachers, that the more frequent contact between doctors and schools has been, and is being, of great benefit to pupils and staff alike.

Number of Children on School Roll - January, 1963

Nursery Schools	...	...	...	...	450
Primary Schools - Infants and Junior	...				7,717
Secondary Schools - Modern	...	...	...		4,320
- Technical	...	...	...		788
- Grammar and High	...				1,723
Special Day School	...	...	...	...	135
					15,133

There are 7 Private Schools in the Borough of Slough providing accommodation for approximately 1,338 children, from the age of 4 to 18 years.

O T H E R I N S P E C T I O N S

Notes: A special inspection is one that is carried out at the special request of a parent, doctor, nurse, teacher or other person.

A re-inspection is an inspection arising out of one of the periodic medical inspections or out of a special inspection.

Number of Special Inspections	...	465
Number of Re-Inspections	...	1,235
TOTAL	...	<u>1,700</u>

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS - 1963

T A B L E N O. 1

PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS					
Age Groups Inspected (by years of birth) (1)	Number of Pupils Inspected (2)	Nutritional Condition of Pupils Inspected			
		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No. (3)	% of Col.2 (4)	No. (5)	% of Col.2 (6)
1959 & later	423	423	100	-	-
1958	1,216	1,216	100	-	-
1957	775	774	99.9	1	0.1
1956	328	328	100	-	-
1955	243	243	100	-	-
1954	181	181	100	-	-
1953	273	273	100	-	-
1952	605	605	100	-	-
1951	288	288	100	-	-
1950	224	224	100	-	-
1949	503	503	100	-	-
1948 & earlier	1,404	1,404	100	-	-
TOTAL	6,463	6,462	99.98	1	0.02

The grand total compares with:-

5,159 in 1962
7,019 in 1961
4,046 in 1960
4,489 in 1959

T A B L E N O . 2

PUPILS REQUIRING TREATMENT AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)			
<i>Age Groups Inspected (by Year of Birth)</i> (1)	<i>Treatment Required</i>		<i>Total Individual Pupils</i> (4)
	<i>For Defective Vision (excluding Squint)</i> (2)	<i>For any other condition as recorded in Table No. 3</i> (3)	
1959 & later	—	16	14
1958	10	128	137
1957	5	147	151
1956	5	91	94
1955	4	79	80
1954	6	33	38
1953	16	35	38
1952	34	70	94
1951	13	47	58
1950	14	28	42
1949	50	34	79
1948 & earlier	162	82	237
TOTALS	319	790	1,074

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

Notes: All cases of infestation, however slight are included in this table.

The numbers recorded at (b) relate to individual pupils, and not to instances of infestation.

(a) Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons 16,68

(b) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested 14

Infestations are treated and cleared by parental co-operation in conjunction with home visits by Health Visitors.

TABLE NO. 3

DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTIONS PERIODIC INSPECTIONS

This table includes individual pupils requiring treatment (T) or observation (O) even though many are already under treatment or observation as a result of previous medical examinations.

DEFECT OR DISEASE (2)	P E R I O D I C I N S P E C T I O N S							
	ENTRANTS		LEAVERS		OTHERS		TOTAL	
	(T) (3)	(O) (4)	(T) (5)	(O) (6)	(T) (7)	(O) (8)	(T) (9)	(O) (10)
4. Skin	2	11	5	3	8	21	15	35
5. Eyes -								
(a) Vision	10	16	98	37	107	98	215	151
(b) Squint	18	6	39	5	38	13	95	24
(c) Other	1	1	14	-	4	6	19	7
6. Ears -								
(a) Hearing	29	8	6	2	76	32	111	42
(b) Otitis Media	2	-	-	-	3	1	5	1
(c) Other	1	1	-	-	4	-	5	1
7. Nose and Throat	40	84	2	-	95	88	137	172
8. Speech	10	24	1	-	25	36	36	60
9. Lymphatic Glands	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	6
10. Heart	2	13	5	3	16	33	23	49
11. Lungs	10	19	3	8	42	42	55	69
12. Development -								
(a) Hernia	1	1	1	-	2	8	4	9
(b) Other	1	24	-	3	9	55	10	82
13. Orthopaedic -								
(a) Posture	7	11	12	6	55	16	74	33
(b) Feet	30	33	9	7	57	59	96	99
(c) Other	4	19	5	2	19	21	28	42
14. Nervous System -								
(a) Epilepsy	-	1	2	-	2	2	4	3
(b) Other	-	2	1	-	9	3	10	5
15. Psychological -								
(a) Development	4	11	-	-	21	35	25	46
(b) Stability	1	13	2	-	21	17	24	30
16. Abdomen	2	2	-	4	3	8	5	14
17. Other -								
Obesity	-	2	-	1	1	8	1	11
Dysmenorrhoea	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Liver	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

T A B L E N O . 4

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS			
Defect Code No. (1)	Defect or Disease (2)	SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		Pupils requiring Treatment (3)	Pupils requiring Observation (4)
4.	Skin	1	1
5.	Eyes -		
	(a) Vision ...	34	14
	(b) Squint ...	12	4
	(c) Other ...	2	-
6.	Ears -		
	(a) Hearing ...	24	8
	(b) Otitis Media	1	-
	(c) Other ...	-	1
7.	Nose and Throat	16	7
8.	Speech	22	9
9.	Lymphatic Glands	-	-
10.	Heart	3	3
11.	Lungs	10	7
12.	Developmental -		
	(a) Hernia ...	-	1
	(b) Other ...	-	18
13.	Orthopaedic -		
	(a) Posture ...	23	3
	(b) Feet ...	14	10
	(c) Other ...	10	6
14.	Nervous System -		
	(a) Epilepsy ...	2	1
	(b) Other ...	2	13
15.	Psychological -		
	(a) Development	10	3
	(b) Stability ...	8	4
16.	Abdomen	-	-
17.	Other -		
	Hepatitis ...	1	-
	General ...	4	1

POSTURAL DEFECTS

Pupils treated at school for postural defects ... 447

REPORT OF REMEDIAL GYMNAST

No. of schools visited	35
No. of children who received treatment	427
New cases referred	190
Children discharged from supervision of exercises and those who have left school and district	190

Summary of Cases referred

Those for postural defects	134
Those for foot defects	184
Those for knee defects	13
Those for asthma and chest conditions	81
Those with neurological symptoms	15

The figures given above represent the number of children who are treated by the Remedial Gymnast. In addition there are some 20 children who have been treated by the gymnasts of their own schools. There are three schools who undertake this work - Angley County Secondary School, Slough Technical High and Slough and Eton C. of E. Secondary School.

The problem of arranging treatment for children has eased this year a little. For most of the year there has only been a small waiting list, although many of the groups are still grossly overcrowded. On 20th December there were 226 cases on the register for regular weekly treatment. On 30th June there were 266 on the roll. Naturally this number is variable and is occasionally higher than 300. As well as these, there were 8 children who were visited occasionally in Nursery Schools and at the Training Centre.

Parental co-operation appears to have improved this year; more than 75% of those invited to attend a session at the commencement of their child's treatment were able to accept. This improvement is gratifying. Continued support from the schools has been appreciated and has helped to make the work for the year run as smoothly as possible although conditions are often difficult.

SPEECH THERAPY

Statistics

Number on waiting list	1. 1.1963	30
Number on waiting list	31.12.1963	16
Current cases being treated at	31.12.1963	89
Number discharged during 1963		55
Number treated during 1963		144

The number of cases treated shows a decrease over the previous year and this is due to the fact that we had our full complement of speech therapists for three months of the year only.

A considerable amount of time has been devoted to the Cerebral Palsy Unit.

EYE CLINIC

Eye clinics, which are held at Burlington Road Health Centre and shared with the Eton Division, continued during 1963 to deal with pupils found, at routine or other medical inspections, to have defective vision or other eye defects.

Arrangements for attendance at these clinics are made by school health service staff and the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board supplies the ophthalmic surgeon and optician service.

The number of pupils referred during the year was as follows:-

For errors of refraction, including squint	...	934
For other defects		9
Spectacles were prescribed for 321 pupils.		

ORTHOPAEDIC REFERRALS

In addition to those children treated by the remedial gymnast, 17 pupils were referred to orthopaedic surgeons for advice and treatment where appropriate.

Of these, 7 were sent for postural defects more severe than those it was thought would benefit from treatment by the remedial gymnast, 3 were for foot defects and 7 for other def

It might not be out of place at this juncture to mention the place of footwear in relation to the growing child. It says little for shoe and fashion designers that very few fashionable shoes have yet been made which will also help to foster or even to maintain healthy feet: perhaps the day will come when young men and young women - particularly the latter - will be able to obtain shoes which are acceptable socially and which do not necessitate constriction of toes. Let us hope that the time will not be long delayed !

AUDIOMETRIC TESTS

Where deafness is suspected by doctors, teachers or parents special tests by means of an audiometer are carried out by Health Visitors. Should these tests show any diminution in hearing the pupils are seen by one of the school doctors and then, if necessary, referred to an Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon.

143 audiometric tests were carried out during the year and 6 children were eventually referred to the E.N.T. department at Upton Hospital.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health teaching has continued in schools where the Head teacher has requested or agreed to it. The main subjects for senior children have been oral resuscitation and smoking in relation to health; in the first case demonstration and practice with the AMBU manikin have been performed and films and film strips have been used in the anti-smoking campaign.

The dental health education programme was extended, the primary schools receiving much support from the Dental Auxiliary; the Principal Dental Officer arranged filmshows in five of the secondary schools.

The Home Safety Quiz Unit was very popular in the 14 schools in the Borough where it was displayed.

DENTAL SERVICE

Treatment for School Children

No. of children inspected	13,793
No. of schools inspected	42
No. of children found to require treatment	5,918
No. actually treated	1,115
No. of attendances (excluding orthodontics)	3,491

Fillings	-	Permanent teeth	2,349
		Temporary teeth	2,088
Extractions	-	Permanent teeth	144
		Temporary teeth	283

	<i>No. treated</i>	<i>Fillings</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Treatment for Pre-School Children	96	129	128
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	44	80	71

A large amount of dental treatment has been carried out for school children, pre-school children and some expectant and nursing mothers during 1963.

Most of the schools in the Borough had a dental inspection and the dental health was, on the whole, satisfactory. Many more teeth have been conserved in recent years and the numbers of teeth that need to be extracted have dropped. Fewer neglected mouths are seen and the impact of Dental Health Education is becoming evident in the greater dental consciousness of the patients. It was found on dental inspection that a large number of children were receiving regular dental treatment from practitioners in the General Dental Service.

The benefit to the teeth of the children who have lived all their lives in the area of Slough, with almost the ideal amount of fluoride in the water supply has been noted, and a yearly survey of some of the Slough children has been carried out with the assistance of staff of the Royal Dental Hospital London. Dental Health Education was carried out for most of the schools, and lectures, demonstrations and films on the care of the teeth were given to children in more than 200 classes who were receiving dental inspection and treatment. It was felt that the standard of oral hygiene improved as a result of this effort by the dental officers and staff.

Two new fully equipped dental clinics were opened in 1963 in the health centres in Britwell and Parlaunt Park. The dental suites consist of waiting room, surgery, office and other accommodation and provide ideal working conditions for the dental officers. These clinics have been seen by visitors from overseas who were impressed by their modern design and equipment.

Orthodontic Treatment

The demand for orthodontic treatment (i.e. the correction of dental abnormalities including misplaced and crooked teeth) continues to grow and the County Orthodontist carried out treatment for a large number of children at the Slough Clinic during 1963.

No. of Children in treatment	229
New Patients	79
Patients carried over from previous year	150
Attendances for Orthodontic treatment	614
Orthodontic Plates fitted	52

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